



Writing Skills

Redundancy

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Redundancy

Learning to avoid redundancy means learning to express yourself clearly and concisely. I've found that this straightforward worksheet involves several tasks integral to avoiding redundancy. Following a brief written discussion on redundancy, students are tasked with finding redundant components within several given sentences. Students learn to first break down and analyze meanings within each sentence. Then, after identifying the redundant elements within each sentence, they must choose which to omit and which to keep, depending upon which, if any, gives more specific information. They must also be on the lookout for self-evident information that should be omitted. This worksheet, therefore, works on the writing skill of avoiding redundancy along with the receptive language skill of breaking sentences down semantically. An answer key is included.

Name _____

Date _____

What is Redundancy?

Redundancy is when you provide information that you've already provided. You don't need to say something more than once. Examples: "My math teacher teaches us math." (repeats form)

"My door is always open, it's never closed." (repeats meaning)

(Note: *For certain situations some repetition may be used for emphasis. This kind of repetition is more appropriate for verbal expression than for written expression.*)

Directions: The following sentences contain redundancies. Choose which redundant information to cross out.

- 1) The small, little dog ran across the street.
- 2) The small, little ladybug flew out the window into the outside.
- 3) We were surprised by the unexpected knock on the door.
- 4) I first saw him when he was an adult one-year-old dog.
- 5) Veronica and I have been friends since we were little, way back in first grade.
- 6) She is so beautiful and pretty everyone says she is stunning.
- 7) Obama, our president, spoke Tuesday night at an 8 p.m. press conference.
- 8) At Summit we're not increasing the enrollment of our school or adding more students.
- 9) Last summer Mark traveled to China and spent the entire month of July in the city of Shanghai.
- 10) Every time I sneeze people always jump because my sneezes are so loud.
- 11) Anthony was the first serious boyfriend I had in my whole life.
- 12) My global history teacher was talking yesterday about the end of World War II and how Japan had to have its constitution rewritten after the war was over.

What is Redundancy? – Answer Key

Redundancy is when you provide information that you've already provided. You don't need to say something more than once. Examples: "My math teacher teaches us math." (repeats form)

"My door is always open, it's never closed" (repeats meaning)

(Note: *For certain situations some repetition may be used for emphasis. This kind of repetition is more appropriate for verbal expression than for written expression.*)

Directions: The following sentences contain redundancies. Choose which redundant information to cross out. **Note:** *After student identifies redundant words/phrases, it is important to choose to leave in whichever words/phrases are more specific, thereby providing the most information.* For examples, see sentences #4 and #5.

- 1) The small dog ran across the street. *Since "small" and "little" have the exact same meaning, students can eliminate either.*
- 2) The ladybug flew out the window. *All ladybugs are small, so neither "small" nor "little" is needed.*
- 3) We were surprised by the knock on the door.
- 4) I first saw him when he was a one-year-old dog. *Students should keep in "one-year-old" since it provides more information than "adult".*
- 5) Veronica and I have been friends since way back in first grade. *"In first grade" is more specific than when "we were little".*
- 6) She is so beautiful everyone says she is stunning. *The adjective "beautiful" more accurately matches the adjective "stunning".*
- 7) Obama spoke Tuesday at an 8 p.m. press conference.
- 8) At Summit we're not increasing the enrollment of our school.
- 9) Last summer Mark traveled to China and spent July in Shanghai. *"Spent July" implies he spent the whole month there. It's debatable whether "traveled to China" is needed, since spending a month in Shanghai could imply that he travelled to get there.*
- 10) My sneezes are so loud they always make people jump. *This sentence benefits from rewording.*
- 11) Anthony was my first serious boyfriend.
- 12) My global history teacher was talking yesterday about how Japan had to have its constitution rewritten at the end of World War II. *Of course, if a student said this to anyone familiar with his class schedule, he could probably leave out "global history", since it would be fairly obvious which teacher made the statement.*