

## Redundancy and Wordiness

Some ACT English Test questions may ask you to identify or eliminate redundancy or unnecessary wordiness within sentences. Redundancy is the unnecessary repetition of ideas. Wordiness is the use of several words when a few can express the same idea more clearly and concisely.

On the sentence level, in general, less is more. The fewer words you use to get your point across, the better. Unnecessary words often waste time and cloud meaning. Sentences that don't have any words to waste are clear and have impact.

### **Wordiness and redundancy typically result from three different causes:**

*The use of unnecessary words or phrases.*

Redundant: Turn left at the green colored house.

Correct: Turn left at the green house.

*Unnecessary repetition of nouns or pronouns.*

Redundant: Riva she couldn't believe her ears.

Correct: Riva couldn't believe her ears.

*The use of wordy phrases instead of adverbs.*

Wordy: She spoke in a very convincing manner.

Concise: She spoke very convincingly.

Wordy: He had a car that was old and rusty.

Concise: He had an old, rusty car.

## ACT ENGLISH TEST PRACTICE

### Practice!!!

Rewrite the following sentences to correct any ambiguity, wordiness, or redundancy.

1. I returned back to my room after the meeting was over.

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2. I heard they are going to put a movie theater on campus.

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3. Please repeat again what you said.

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4. While barbecuing our steaks, a hungry dog came into our backyard.

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5. The servers they really take care of you at this restaurant.

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6. The circumstances are very delicate in nature.

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7. It was a story that was difficult to tell.

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8. Fried in butter, Sylvan likes eggs.

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(POSSIBLE) ANSWERS

\*Insertions are indicated in italics.

1. I returned ~~back~~ to my room after the meeting was over.
2. I heard ~~they~~ *trustees* are going to put a movie theater on campus.
3. Please repeat ~~again~~ what you said.
4. While ~~we were~~ barbecuing our steaks, a hungry dog came into our backyard.
5. The servers ~~they~~ really take care of you at this restaurant.
6. The circumstances are very delicate ~~in nature~~.
7. It was a *difficult* story that was difficult to tell.
8. Fried in butter, Sylvan likes eggs *fried in butter*.