**SAT Grammar - Concision and Redundancy**

**Concision**

There are times when saying something twice is needed: for emphasis, to review a difficult topic, or to explain something more clearly. The SAT, however, is all about being as succinct and to the point as possible.

Your ability to edit the fat out of sentences is tested in three ways: fixing overly wordy phrases, finding redundancies, and combining two simple sentences into a more complex one.

**Overly Wordy Phrases**

The SAT deeply believes in Shakespeare's maxim that “brevity is the soul of wit”: if you can say the same thing with fewer words, do it.

It’s tempting to think that when a sentence uses a multi-word phrase where a single word will do, the sentence sounds formal or more academic. But this is not the case. Often, one word is better than many words (examples 1 and 2).

Sometimes, a sentence might use words that don’t serve any purpose and don’t even need to be replaced but rather deleted altogether (examples 3 and 4).

**Examples**

Error: Thinking in a manner more general, we can say that good schools enable people to learn more.

Fix: Generally, we can say that good schools enable people to learn more.

Error: The company might not be awarded the contract because it lacks production facilities, making it a worse choice from a theoretical way of speaking.

Fix: The company might not be awarded the contract because it lacks production facilities, making it a worse choice theoretically.

Error: Although hesitant to challenge herself at first, the student decided to enroll in three AP courses, two honors courses, and an intensive art course on top of that.

Fix: Although hesitant to challenge herself at first, the student decided to enroll in three AP courses, two honors courses, and an intensive art course.

Error: When the audience stood to applaud the speaker, it was clear that her words had had a marvelous, even stupendous, effect on the crowd.

Fix: When the audience stood to applaud the speaker, it was clear that her words had had a marvelous effect on the crowd.

**Redundancy**

If a sentence expresses the same bit of information two or more times, it’s considered redundant. Pick the best way of stating the necessary fact and delete the repetition.

**Examples**

Words or phrases that mean the same thing as each other are underlined.

Error: The stock market might repeat its drop and rise pattern again, warns the financial forecast.

Fix: The stock market might repeat its drop and rise pattern, warns the financial forecast.

Error: Soon a relative calm period followed quickly after the brunt of the cyclone had passed.

Fix: A relative calm period followed quickly after the brunt of the cyclone had passed.

Error: Management was surprised to see a biannual uptick in sales twice each year.

Fix: Management was surprised to see a biannual uptick in sales.