

## Wordiness, AKA “The Rambler”

Wordy sentences use too many useless words that clutter writing. Good writing is simple and direct; it uses the simplest word possible that conveys the same meaning. Wordiness takes away from this clarity.

How do we know we have a wordy sentence? Let's take a look at an example:

### Outlaw sentence

The reason that he was really late to his English class is due to the fact that had to finish his math test  
23 words!!!

### Rehabilitated sentence

He was late for English because he had to finish his math test. ☺  
13 words!!!

So how do we do this you may ask???

- Not all sentences may be this wordy. Simply read through the sentence and if you can remove a word while keeping the sentence's meaning, then the sentence is wordy.

Only keep a word if:

- It is necessary to the grammar of the sentence
- It is a key idea, fact, feeling, or description

Try to rehabilitate these wordy sentences:

- 1.) One time when I went to the park, my friend, whose name is Matt, went with me and we had fun due to the fact that it was a nice day out.
  
- 2.) He found his neighbor who lived next door to be attractive in appearance.

There are five examples of wordiness:

1.) Eliminate redundancy

**redundant**

Each separate incident  
Many different ways  
Tall skyscraper  
He is a man who is  
The reason.... is because

**rehabilitated**

each incident  
many ways  
tall  
he is  
because

2.) Delete empty words and phrases

Generally	tend to	really
Apparently	in my opinion	very
Basically	I think that	various
Essentially	I feel	in some ways
Virtually	I believe	for all intents and purposes

3.) Avoid expressions that can be more clearly said in another way

**Too wordy**

At this point in time  
Due to the fact that  
in order to  
at the same time as  
with the possible exception of

**Better**

At this time  
because  
to  
while  
except

4.) Delete the following phrases and variations:

- \*There is...that
- \*It is...that

**Too wordy**

There are many students who like reading  
It is the desk that is uncomfortable.

**Better**

Many students like reading.  
The desk is uncomfortable

5.) Avoid using the passive voice. It often uses more words than the active voice.