

A FEW WORDS ON WORDINESS

In short, wordiness becomes a grammatical problem when the meaning of a sentence can be conveyed just as well in fewer words. No matter how long or short a sentence is, wordiness can still be present if there is unnecessary repetition. Think about the redundancies in short phrases such as *actual reality*, *true fact*, *loud cacophony*, and *cooperative collaboration*. Although it may seem as though phrases like these add depth to your work, there is really no reason to say the same thing twice.

For example:

Wordy: The freshest MCs in the land all collaborated and worked together to make an album.

Revised: The freshest MCs in the land collaborated to make an album.

Wordiness is also present when a word is repeated twice in the same sentence:

Wordy: Elmira worked hard to make her special brownies, and the brownies tasted great.

Revised: Elmira worked hard to make her special brownies, and they tasted great.

Try to cut out words that detract from the main point. State your point in a concise manner, leaving out “warm up” words:

Wordy: It seems as though in his raps, MC Neon Cellgap aired his dislike for MC Lickalot.

Revised: In his raps, MC Neon Cellgap aired his dislike for MC Lickalot.

Verbs can often stand on their own, without other words to back them up. Sometimes, a sentence is more powerful if you emphasize the verbs:

Wordy: Susan nonchalantly walked into the room and looked angrily at the people present.

Revised: Susan strolled into the room and glared at the people present.

Finally, word groups can be made more compact if you reduce phrases to single words:

Wordy: People sometimes catch a cold, which is the most common of all illnesses.

Revised: People sometimes catch the common cold.