

WORDS: REDUNDANCY ANSWERS

S-13

Redundancy means to use more words than are necessary to convey a meaning. For example, *free gift* is **redundant because a gift is something that is received at no cost**, (i.e. gifts are always free). Similarly, *sink down* is redundant since sink means to move down. It is easy for redundancy to creep into the language when writers and speakers are either not aware of a word's definition or they employ a phrase that is commonly used to the point that it "sounds right."

Redundancy is related to wordiness – which is the use of too many words. The most important distinction is that redundancy uses words with the same meaning, while wordiness uses more words than are needed. Both redundancy and wordiness should be avoided.

In the following is a list of commonly used, redundant expressions and an example of the correct wording.

REDUNDANT	CORRECT
advance forward	advance
advance planning	planning
appears to be	is
as to whether	whether
attach together	attach
basic essentials	essentials
blue in color	blue
but nevertheless	nevertheless
cheaper in cost	cheaper
circle around	circle
close proximity	proximity
combine together	combine
completely eliminate	eliminate
completely finished	finished
connect together	connect

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REDUNDANT	CORRECT
consensus of opinion	consensus
descend down	descend
disappear from view	disappear
each and every day	each day, every day, daily
end result	result
few in number	few
filled to capacity	filled
final outcome	outcome
first priority	priority
follow after	follow
free gift	gift
gather together	gather
important essentials	essentials
last of all	last
lift up	lift
local resident	resident
may possibly	possibly
never at any time	never
new beginning	beginning
original source	source
past history	history
penetrate into	penetrate
personal opinion	opinion
postponed until later	postponed

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REDUNDANT	CORRECT
refer back	refer
repeat again	repeat
return back	return
separate apart	separate
small/large in size	small, large
square/round in shape	square/round
surround on all sides	surround
total annihilation/extinction/destruction	annihilation/extinction/destruction
true facts	facts
violent explosion	explosion
3 p.m. in the afternoon	3:00 p.m.

Exercise 1: In the following sentences underline the redundant expression, and then revise the sentences to eliminate redundancy. (Hint: look at the table above for guidance.)

1. Her handbag was square in shape.
2. Detectives search for the true facts in an investigation.
3. The consensus of opinion on the basic fundamentals created the shortest meeting of the year.
4. If you refer back to the day of March 18 at eight o'clock in the morning, you will recall seeing a woman wearing a dress that was red in color gather together her belongings before crossing the street.
5. Even though she had performed the operation a numerous number of times, she still reviewed the basic essentials each and every day.
6. The first priority appears to be to group together the children that live in close proximity to one another.
7. The local residents filled to capacity the new auditorium as they waited to hear the developer recount the past history of the archaeological site.
8. Advance planning can avoid total destruction of a historical site.