

Combat wordiness: avoid ready-made phrases

If you write a phrase you've heard many times before, stop and consider how to say it differently. Ready-made phrases are dull, wordy, and often meaningless. Usually you can replace these weary phrases with one word or discard them.

Instead of:

Write:

"along the lines of"	"like"
"as a matter of fact"	discard
"as the case may be"	discard
"at all times"	"always"
"at the present time"/"at this point in time"/"as of the moment"	"now," "currently"
"at the same time that"	"while"
"by and large"	discard
"come to the realization"	"realize"
"concerning the matter of"	"about," "regarding"
"due to the fact that"	"because"
"during the course of"	"while"
"each and every one"	"each one," "every one"
"for all intents and purposes"	discard
"future prospects"	"prospects"
"in all likelihood"	"likely"
"in all probability"	"probably"
"in spite of the fact that"	"although"
"in the event that"	"if," "should"
"in the final analysis"	discard
"in the near future"/"in the not too distant future"	"soon"
"in today's society"/"in this day and age"	"today," "now"
"interestingly enough"	discard
"last but not least"	"finally"
"more or less"	discard
"on a daily basis"	"daily"
"on account of the fact that"/"on the grounds that"/"on the basis of"	"because"
"one of the most interesting"	discard
"owing to the fact that"	"because"
"somewhere in the neighbourhood of"	"about," "near"
"the end result"	"the result"
"the fact that"	discard
"the majority of"	"most"
"the majority of instances"	"often," "usually"
"until such time as"	"until"
"we are of the opinion that"	"we believe," "we think"
"with the exception of"	"except for"
"while at the same time"	"while"



A tip from the BCIT editing community
— Jim, Kathleen, Gary, Barb

Tweaking words to shine the distance