

Combat wordiness: avoid the word “being”

Avoid using the word “being” as a verb. That is to say, unless you are referring to the Supreme Being, a human being, or some other creature being, do not use it at all. You can almost always find a better way to write a sentence than with the word “being” in it.

As a first step, strike it out. It likely won’t change the meaning.

Example

Poor: The application is currently being used by two instructors.

Better: The application is currently being used by two instructors.

Best*: Two instructors are currently using the application.

* This rewrite changes the sentence from passive to active—always a good idea.



A message from the Instructional Materials Developers in the Learning and Teaching Centre.

Increasing student engagement with clearer content