



3 The Language of News

Exercise 1: Editing

Answer Key in Appendix 2.

Section I: Being Concise

Eliminate the unnecessary words from the following sentences. The sentences do not have to be rewritten; simply cross out the words that are not needed.

1. The contractor did a totally complete job on the renovation.
2. The candidates for mayor will conduct a poll of the residents.
3. She said the new innovation would save the company money.
4. He said the birthday party was an unexpected surprise.
5. The police officer tried to calm down the accident victim.

Section II: Rewriting Wordy Sentences

Rewrite the following sentences, eliminating unnecessary words and correcting any other errors.

1. The mayor said everyone had to co-operate together or someone would file a lawsuit against the city.
2. It would appear that the new school mascot, which got a stamp of approval from alumni, will make an appearance at Saturday's game.

3. As a matter of fact, some of the tickets were free of charge to the contest winners while other tickets cost the sum of \$50 for handling fees.
4. Police claimed the armed gunman was carrying a dangerous weapon when he entered the bank with the underlying purpose of robbing it.
5. Local residents said they planned to evacuate in the event that the floodwaters reached the banks of the river and completely destroyed the town.

Section III: Using Powerful Verbs

Rewrite the following sentences, using stronger verbs. Also use subject-verb-object (S-V-O) sentence structure.

1. The car is in need of a new paint job.
2. He was planning to open a restaurant in Moncton.
3. The professor was able to interest many students in his classes.
4. The preschool nutrition program is set up so that the cost is paid by the province.
5. A short circuit in the electrical wiring at the church was the cause of the fire.
6. The cost of a ticket for admission to the amusement park is \$25.
7. A trip to the beach is what Karen and David are planning for this summer.
8. To obtain extra money to pay for university, John has picked up a second job.
9. It was suggested by the moderator that the panel participants may want to take a break.
10. The reservations she made at the hotel were for three rooms.

Exercise 2: Vocabulary

Words with different meanings often look or sound similar. As a journalist, you should be familiar with these words and use them correctly. Cross out the wrong words in the following sentences, leaving only the correct ones.

1. The mayor (accepted/excepted) the offer from the university board of directors to (aide/aid) the city in its (clean up/cleanup) efforts after the storm.
2. The professor (alluded/eluded) to the chapter in the book that mentions that people will (altar/alter) their behaviour if they are (assured/ensured/insured) their efforts will be rewarded.

3. The (cite/site/sight) of the new World War II memorial (peaked/peeked/piqued) the interest of many (people/persons) in the neighbourhood.
4. (Personal/Personnel) were asked to evaluate their (peers/piers) in regard to (their/ there) job performance.
5. She was afraid the club members would (waiver/waver) in defence of their actions when it was determined the (principle/principal) planned to (censure/censor) them for demonstrating in front of the school.
6. The restaurant (complemented/complimented) the meal with a delicious (desert/ dessert).
7. The team's (moral/morale) was higher (than/then) ever after (their/there/its) undefeated season became a reality.
8. Police said the car was (stationary/stationery) when the truck (collided with/ struck) it, causing a quite a (cite/sight/site) for passersby.
9. The beautiful (weather/whether) was one of the reasons that thousands of Canadians turned out to demonstrate at the (Parliament Buildings/Parliament buildings/parliament buildings).
10. The snowstorm during the (assent/ascent) of the mountain peak hampered the rescue workers from reaching the climber who (received/sustained/suffered) a broken leg (due to/ because of) a fall from a ledge.