

Boost Free Lessons - Year 9 English

Lesson 8: Sentence Structure and Editing

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Choose the better word to complete the sentence, and explain why.

*The evidence (**says** / **suggests**) that attendance has improved.*

1. Both words fit grammatically, so the choice is about precision and modality.
2. *Says* claims the evidence states something outright, which is rarely true of data.
3. *Suggests* is more cautious and more accurate, because evidence points towards conclusions.
4. In formal writing, choose the word that matches how strong your evidence actually is.

Suggests, because evidence points towards a conclusion rather than stating it outright.

Worked Example 2

Improve the sentence below.

Due to the fact that it was raining, we made the decision to postpone the event.

1. Look for phrases doing the work of a single word. *Due to the fact that* means *because*.
2. *Made the decision to* is a weak verb propped up by a noun. It means *decided*.
3. Cutting redundant words makes writing clearer, not shorter for its own sake.
4. Check the meaning is unchanged after every cut.

Because it was raining, we postponed the event.

Remember: Choose the **most precise** word, not the longest. Cut phrases doing the work of one word, and never claim more than your evidence supports.



Question 1: Choose the better word, or rewrite the sentence more concisely.

1. The results (show / prove) a small improvement.

2. She (walked / proceeded to walk) to the door.

3. At this point in time, we cannot comment.

4. The report (indicates / screams) a change in trend.

5. He made an apology to the class.

6. In the event that it rains, bring an umbrella.

7. The findings (imply / declare) a possible link.

8. There are many students who arrive late.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

Due to the fact that numbers had fallen, the committee met in April. They came to the conclusion that the timetable was the cause. One survey proves this, but a larger study is needed.

1. Find one wordy phrase in the passage and shorten it.

2. Find a second wordy phrase.

3. Find one word that overstates the evidence, and suggest a better one.

4. Rewrite the first sentence as concisely as you can.

5. Rewrite the whole passage, keeping the meaning.



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Rewrite this concisely: *It is important to note that the majority of participants gave a positive response.*

2. Write a sentence, then rewrite it using five fewer words.

3. Explain why cutting words usually makes writing clearer.





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Answers and Model Responses: Sentence Structure and Editing**Question 1**

1. show
2. walked
3. Model: We cannot comment now.
4. indicates
5. Model: He apologised to the class.
6. Model: If it rains, bring an umbrella.
7. imply
8. Model: Many students arrive late.

Question 2

1. *Due to the fact that* means *because*.
2. *Came to the conclusion* means *concluded*.
3. *Proves* overstates a single survey. Model: *suggests*.
4. Because numbers had fallen, the committee met in April.
5. Because numbers had fallen, the committee met in April. It concluded that the timetable was the cause. One survey suggests this, but a larger study is needed.

Question 3

1. Model response: Most participants responded positively.
2. Model response: Original: In order to be able to attend, students will need to complete the form.
Shorter: To attend, students must complete the form.
3. Extra words make a reader work harder to find the meaning. Cutting them puts the important words closer together, so the point lands faster.

