

Revision Practice: Cutting the Clutter

Directions: Revise each of the following sentences by making them more concise, avoiding repetition, and selecting the most appropriate word or words. Suggested revisions are provided on the last page of this handout.

1. In the cellar there are four wooden-type crates with nothing in them that might perhaps be used by us for storing paint cans inside of.
2. This morning at 6:30 a.m., I woke up out of sleep to hear my alarm go off, but the alarm was turned off by me, and I returned back to a sleeping state.
3. The reason that Merdine was not able to be in attendance at the hockey game was because she had jury duty.
4. Omar and I, we returned back to the hometown where we both grew up to attend a reunion of the people that we went to high school with ten years ago in the past.
5. Melba has designed a very unique kind of shirt that is made out of a polyester type of material that never creases into wrinkles when it rains and the shirt gets wet.

6. She used her money to purchase a large-type desk made of mahogany wood that is dark brown in color and handsome to look at.
7. In view of the fact that it was raining down, orders were given that the game be canceled.
8. At that point in time when Merdine was a teenager the basic fundamentals of how to dance were first learned by her.
9. Some sort of identification that would show how old we were was requested of us by the man that collects tickets from people at the movie theater.
10. There is a possibility that one of the causes of so many teenagers running away from home is the fact that many of them have indifferent parents who don't really care about them.

Practice Cutting the Clutter: Suggested Revisions

1. In the cellar there are four wooden-type crates with nothing in them that might perhaps be used by us for storing paint cans inside of.

We could store the paint cans in the four wooden crates in the cellar.

2. This morning at 6:30 a.m., I woke up out of sleep to hear my alarm go off, but the alarm was turned off by me, and I returned back to a sleeping state.

I awoke this morning at 6:30 but then turned off the alarm and went back to sleep.

3. The reason that Merdine was not able to be in attendance at the hockey game was because she had jury duty.

Because she had jury duty, Merdine was not at the hockey game.

4. Omar and I, we returned back to the hometown where we both grew up to attend a reunion of the people that we went to high school with ten years ago in the past.

Omar and I returned to our hometown to attend our ten-year high school reunion.

5. Melba has designed a very unique kind of shirt that is made out of a polyester type of material that never creases into wrinkles when it rains and the shirt gets wet.

Melba has designed a polyester shirt that never creases when wet.

6. She used her money to purchase a large-type desk made of mahogany wood that is dark brown in color and handsome to look at.

She purchased a large, handsome-looking mahogany desk.

7. In view of the fact that it was raining down, orders were given that the game be canceled.

The game was cancelled because of the rain.

8. At that point in time when Merdine was a teenager the basic fundamentals of how to dance were first learned by her.

Merdine learned how to dance when she was a teenager.

9. Some sort of identification that would show how old we were was requested of us by the man that collects tickets from people at the movie theater.

The ticket collector at the movie theater asked us for identification.

10. There is a possibility that one of the causes of so many teenagers running away from home is the fact that many of them have indifferent parents who don't really care about them.

Perhaps one reason that so many teenagers run away from home is that their parents don't care for them.