

What Is Wordiness?

This means using too many words when fewer words suffice. By using unnecessary words, the text becomes difficult to understand and makes the writing seem unnatural.

Example

Incorrect: At this moment in time I am of the opinion that it is of the utmost importance to labor diligently at whatsoever endeavor may fall to your lot.

Correct: I now think that it is very important to work hard at whatever you do.

Wordiness often leads to redundancy, two technical terms for which are **tautology** and **pleonasm**.

What Is Tautology?

This means the use of extra words to repeat something, which has already been said.

Example

Incorrect: Students appear for annual exams every year.

In the above sentence, annual and every year mean the same thing. Using them both is redundant.

Correct: Students appear for annual exams.

Correct: Students appear for exams every year.

Other examples of tautology include

- future prospects
- present time

What Is Pleonasm?

It is the use of more words than are required to give the sense intended.

Avoid: The shale is red in color.

Better: The shale is red.

Avoid: Owing to the fact that

Better: Because

Avoid: At this point in time

Better: Now