

# Wordiness

## LNC Writing Center Review

### 3 Types of Wordiness

#### Long Phrases

These are phrases that could be said in just one word.

The phrase “at this point” means “now.” It would be more concise to use just one word.

I can't say what will happen at this point.

I can't say what will happen now.

#### Redundant Phrases

These are phrases that say the same thing twice (repeat meaning).

A “surprise” already means that something was unexpected, so “unexpected surprise” is repetitive.

Receiving a puppy for my birthday was an unexpected surprise.

Receiving a puppy for my birthday was a surprise.

#### Utility Words

These are words that don't usually add real meaning to the sentence. They are often used for emphasis in conversational writing, but are considered unnecessary in academic/formal writing.

I was really angry. Basically, she lied to me.

I definitely understand what you're saying.

Empathy and sympathy are two totally different things.

### Test Taking Strategies

1. When you see a question asking which sentence is worded the most or least effectively or concisely, it is asking about the three types of wordiness.
2. When answering a question about wordiness, look at each multiple-choice option and note each instance of wordiness. Then, double check whether the question is asking for the most or least wordy.

Choose the sentence that is worded most effectively:

- A. Rand wanted to be completely sure that he was absolutely prepared.
- B. Marie was tired, due to the fact that she was working really late.
- C. Shaun drove tirelessly throughout the night.
- D. Keith was definitely ready to proceed, pleased with the end result.