

Exercise 1: Omitting unnecessary words

Cross out the unnecessary words in the following sentences.

Example:

The children were tired and exhausted after the long climb to the high top of the mountain.

1. The stegosaurus was huge in size.
2. Now she is at school.
3. He was happy and joyful about the great gift.
4. Because of the fact that he got a good grade on the midterm, he decided to take the night off.
5. In the summer season, many Vancouverites like to picnic in Stanley Park.
6. On January 14, in the middle of winter, the weather was freezing cold.
7. I think smoking in public places should be banned.
8. In order to get the true facts of the case, the lawyer interviewed 4 witnesses.
9. Furthermore, Henry VIII also married six different women.
10. Redundancy is defined as unnecessary repetition.
11. New Westminster, which was British Columbia's first capital city, is located on the shores of the Fraser River.
12. The computer is sitting on top of the table.

Exercise 3: Revising wordy sentences

Rewrite the following sentences to be more concise.

1. Terry Fox is perhaps one of Canada's greatest modern heroes because of the fact that he did something amazing even though he was disabled and had lost his leg.

2. Terry Fox was born in 1958 in Winnipeg in Manitoba.

3. At the age of 19 years old, Fox was diagnosed by doctors as having an unusually rare form of bone cancer.

4. Doctors decided that they had to amputate most of one of his legs to stop the cancer from spreading to other parts of his body.

5. While he was recovering from the amputation, Fox came up with the idea of the "Marathon of Hope", which he hoped would help him to make a lot of money for cancer research so that cancer could be cured.

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6. He began his run in St. John's in Newfoundland which he started on April 12 in the spring of 1980.

7. He ran at a pace of nearly 40 km. per day and had run 5373 km. when he got to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Thunderbay is a small city in western Ontario.

8. When he was there in Thunderbay, cancer was discovered in his lungs so he ended up having to end his run there in Ontario.

9. It was an inspiration to a lot of millions of people when Fox with his great bravery and devotion to his cause did his great run.

10. With his run, he encouraged Canadian people to contribute money, almost \$25 million dollars, for cancer research so that researchers could look for a cure for cancer.

11. In the end, Fox died in New Westminster in June of 1981, but he has in no way been forgotten.

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12. A mountain in B.C. was named after him, and a high school in B.C. was named after him, too.
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13. Every year, cities across Canada hold Terry Fox runs which are named after him and the money is put into cancer research.
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14. Another important legacy is the way Fox didn't let his disability get him down; that perhaps is the biggest hope which his marathon provided for many people who suffer from disabilities of all kinds.
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Exercise 4: Revising a wordy paragraph

Underline the wordy parts of the following paragraph. Then re-write the paragraph on a separate page. Reduce the wordiness, but be sure you include all the information from the original. Count how many words are in the revised version. Compare the word counts of the original and revised versions.

Canada in Space

Canada does not send space shuttles and rockets into space, so for that reason people tend to forget that Canada has made very significant contributions to space exploration. Because of its large size, Canada has specialized in satellite communications technology. In 1962, Canada became the third country in the world to have a satellite in orbit when it launched Alouette 1 in the early sixties. The Alouette 1 satellite was followed in 1972 by the Anik A-1 satellite which provided coast-to-coast across Canada telephone services. Furthermore, Canada has developed important tools for operating in space like the Canadarm. It was developed first in 1981. The Canadarm is a mechanical robotic arm used by astronauts on the American space shuttle. Canada has also provided the space industry with people to go into space. The first Canadian astronaut was Marc Garneau, who was an astronaut who did research on the space shuttle. A more recent Canadian astronaut is Julie Payette who went into space on the space shuttle in June of 1999. These contributions to the world of the space industry are important ones and should not be forgotten. (187 words)