

## Redundant, Expendable, and Incomparable Words and Phrases Quiz

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### ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** Edit the following sentences, based on the information found in chapter 11, eliminating redundant and expendable words and phrases and making sure that incomparable words stand alone. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. The rash on his skin was red in color and rough in texture.

**ANSWER:** The rash was red and rough.

**Editor's Note:** All rashes are on the skin. *Red* implies color and *rough* implies texture (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

2. It is interesting to note that this time period, although brief in duration, produced the majority of survey responses.

**ANSWER:** This brief period produced the most survey responses.

**Editor's Note:** Some words and phrases can usually be omitted without affecting meaning, and omitting them often improves the readability of a sentence (eg, *It is interesting to note that*). Avoid roundabout and wordy expressions (eg, *the majority of* can be changed to *most*) (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution). A redundancy is a term or phrase that unnecessarily repeats words or meanings (eg, *brief in duration*) (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

3. Due to the fact that the woman was slightly pregnant, the physician opted not to perform radiography.

**ANSWER:** Because the woman was pregnant, the physician opted not to perform radiography.

**Editor's Note:** Some words and phrases can usually be omitted without affecting meaning, and omitting them often improves the readability of a sentence (eg, *Due to the fact that*) (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution). Some words are regarded as “absolute” adjectives, those not possessing a comparative or superlative form (eg, *pregnant*) (§11.2.3, Incomparable Words).

4. Similar results were also obtained for 4 out of the 5 patients.

**ANSWER:** Similar results were also obtained for 4 of the 5 patients.

**Editor's Note:** A redundancy is a term or phrase that unnecessarily repeats words or meanings (eg, *out of*) (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

5. As a general rule, we do not comment on the future plans of the organization.

**ANSWER:** As a rule, we do not comment on the plans of the organization.

**Editor's Note:** Most rules are general and all plans are future (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

6. We describe herein the results of the randomized clinical trial performed by Smith et al, which were uniformly consistent with the results of earlier randomized clinical trials.

**ANSWER:** We describe the results of the randomized clinical trial performed by Smith et al, which were consistent with the results of earlier randomized clinical trials.

**Editor's Note:** *Describe herein* and *uniformly consistent* are redundant phrases (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

7. When totaling up the sum of the survey responses, the investigators learned that the positive responses were fewer in number than expected.

**ANSWER:** When totaling the survey responses, the investigators learned that the positive responses were fewer than expected.

**Editor's Note:** *Totaling up the sum* and *fewer in number* are redundant phrases (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

8. It goes without saying that the newly approved drug will produce an inhibitory effect on the AIDS-related symptoms.

**ANSWER:** The newly approved drug will inhibit the AIDS-related symptoms.

**Editor's Note:** Some words and phrases can usually be omitted without affecting meaning, and omitting them often improves the readability of a sentence (eg, *It goes without saying that*). Avoid roundabout and wordy expressions (eg, *produce an inhibitory effect*) (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution).

9. My fellow colleagues and I have achieved a major breakthrough.

**ANSWER:** My colleagues and I have achieved a breakthrough.

**Editor's Note:** *Fellow colleagues* is redundant (§11.2.1, Redundant Words). All *breakthroughs* are major (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution).

10. The new health care law will have an impact on the ability of low-income patients to receive health care insurance.

**ANSWER:** The new health care law will affect the ability of low-income patients to receive health care insurance.

**Editor's Note:** *Have an impact on* is wordy (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution).

11. During the time that I was applying to medical school, it was found that the number of openings for surgeons at major medical institutions was decreasing in number.

**ANSWER:** When I was applying to medical school, the number of openings for surgeons at major medical institutions was decreasing.

**Editor's Note:** The phrases *during the time that*, *it was found that*, and *decreasing in number* are expendable or wordy phrases (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution).

12. He obtained a completely comprehensive medical history for each individual patient.

**ANSWER:** He obtained a comprehensive medical history for each patient.

**Editor's Note:** *Comprehensive* is an incomparable word that requires no adjective (§11.2.3, Incomparable Words). *Each individual* patient is redundant (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

13. In order to participate in the study, the patients had to be older than 35 years of age and residents of the United States.

**ANSWER:** To participate in the study, the patients had to be older than 35 years and residents of the United States.

**Editor's Note:** The phrase *in order to* is expendable (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution). The words *older* and *of age* in the phrase *older than 35 years of age* are redundant (§11.2.1, Redundant Words).

14. Research in the field of genetics has increased since the completion of the fifth human genome map.

**ANSWER:** Research in genetics has increased since the completion of the fifth human genome map.

**Editor's Note:** Some words and phrases can usually be omitted without affecting meaning, and omitting them often improves the readability of a sentence (eg, *the field of*) (§11.2.2, Expendable Words and Circumlocution).

15. The peer reviewers were completely unanimous in their decision to recommend publication of the manuscript.

**ANSWER:** The peer reviewers were unanimous in their decision to recommend publication of the manuscript.

**Editor's Note:** *Unanimous* is an incomparable word that requires no adjective (§11.2.3, Incomparable Words).

