

AVOIDING EXPLETIVES

EXPLETIVES (SENTENCE-LEVEL)

Expletives are words and short phrases which are simply serve no purpose other than filling a space in the sentence.

Oftentimes, these structures do nothing for the audience. Thus, many scholars and professionals believe that these structures simply weaken the overall style of the document.

COMMON EXPLETIVES (SENTENCE-LEVEL)

There is

There are

There will be

There was

There were

It is

It was

It will be

This is

This was

This will be

That is

That was

That will be

The quick fix is to change these words and short phrases to more appropriate and more specific choices.

EX:

It is necessary to pick up Marjorie. (EXPLETIVE)

Picking up Marjorie is necessary. (NO EXPLETIVE)

EXPLETIVES (WORD-LEVEL)

Word-level expletives are simply profanity or obscene language. Since maintaining your creditability as an intelligent and resourceful writer is important, we recommend that you resist the urge to use expletives in referential and argumentative works. Usually, there is a time and a place for strong language.