



HOW TO REDUCE WORD COUNT

*Editing Tips 101: Part I, Tip #1
by Wordvice.com*

AVOID NOMINALIZATIONS

- What is a nominalization? It's when you convert a word into a noun form, e.g., consider → consideration.
- Why shouldn't we use nominalizations? They create wordiness by, for example, adding avoidable prepositions and articles or creating passive voice.

RECOGNIZING NOMINALIZATIONS

Most common include:

- Phrases using "make" and "take"
- gerunds (verb+ing)
- nouns typically ending in -tion, -sion, -ment, -ence, and -ance

HOW TO REVISE

01

Meaningless verb + nominalization: Delete the meaningless one and convert the nominalization into the main verb. Ex: Joe will **conduct research**. → Joe will **research**.

02

Nominalization is the subject of passive voice structure: Identify the true subject, and convert nominalization to a verb for that subject. Ex: The **approval of the plan was given**... → The committee **approved** the plan...

03

Back-to-back nominalizations: Make the first a verb, and keep the second or change the second to a question-word phrase. Ex: First was their **introduction** of their **analysis** of... → First, they **introduced** how they **analyzed**...

04

Nominalization in subject is connected to nominalization in predicate: Change each nominalization to a verb. Then consider the logical connection between the two parts and add the appropriate connectors (because, when, if, although, even though, despite, etc.). Ex: Her **understanding of the situation was evidenced by the quitting of her job**. → When she **quit** her job, **she showed she understood** the situation.



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