

Stringy and Wordy Sentences

Stringy Sentences

- Ramble on and on
 - Too many independent clauses strung together with coordinating conjunctions
- If you read it out loud, you may run out of breath
 - Example: Mary McLeod Bethune dreamed of being a teacher, and she attended a college in Chicago, and she won a scholarship for her hard work, and Bethune eventually became a teacher, and she earned the respect of educators and presidents.

Revising Stringy Sentences

- Break the sentence into two or more sentences
 - Example
 - ✦ Original: Mary McLeod Bethune dreamed of being a teacher, and she attended a college in Chicago...
 - ✦ New: Mary McLeod Bethune dreamed of being a teacher. She attended a college in Chicago.
- Turn some of the independent clauses into phrases or subordinating clauses
 - Example:
 - ✦ Original: She attended a college in Chicago, and she won a scholarship for her hard work.
 - ✦ New: She attended a college in Chicago after she won a scholarship for her hard work.

Wordy Sentences

- Using more words than needed
 - Does not make the writing better
- They just get in the reader's way

3 Ways to Fix Wordy Sentences

1. Replace a group of words with one word
 - Wordy: I did not get to school on time due to the fact that I missed the bus.
 - Revised: I did not get to school on time because I missed the bus.
2. Replace with a clause or phrase
 - Wordy: When the play had come to an end, we walked to a restaurant and treated ourselves to pizza.
 - Revised: After the play, we walked to a restaurant and treated ourselves to pizza.
3. Take out a whole group of unnecessary words
 - Wordy: What I mean to say is that Carlos did not go to the movie with us.
 - Revised: Carlos did not go to the movie with us.