



Tips to Reduce Awkwardness

Awkward sentences usually stem from word choice. Writers sometimes use additional or vague words that do not add any new meaning.

Euphemisms are the substitution of polite or inoffensive terms for those that might be considered too blunt or unpleasant. However, using euphemisms can create a weak style that minimizes the importance of the message. Depending on your goal, choose your vocabulary based on your context and goal.

Euphemisms	Direct vocabulary
senior citizen	old person
artificial stimulants	alcohol and drugs
neutralize	assassinate
previously owned vehicles	used cars

Some cliché expressions, phrases, or unnecessary words may actually impede the flow.

Wordy	Not as wordy
at this point in time	now
subsequent to	after
a majority of	most
due to the fact that	because
in the neighborhood of	about

Wordy sentences stray the reader away from the main idea. As you write, choose strong verbs and identify the doer of the action.

Wordy: It is important to notice that the main primary reason for which the school curriculum does not align with students' needs is the focus on test achievement rather than the learning of skills.

Concise: The primary reason the school curriculum doesn't align with students needs is the emphasis on test achievement over skill development.

