



Superfluous words

Examples

From a newspaper article:

The series of events in such a short period of time was quite unbelievable.

From a newspaper article about allergies:

Any inappropriate and uncomfortable reaction to a stimulus, whether the stimulus is food or drink, a chemical or something environmental such as pollen may be termed as an 'allergy'.

Keeping your own list

Keeping a list of all of the superfluous words you use will help you de-clutter your writing so that readers can see your points more clearly and understand your ideas without having to strip the prose down to get at them. Take any of the following words and start your own list by adding words when you become aware that you use them unnecessarily. Then, when you come to revise your work, look at the list and remind yourself what you need to look for.

Absolutely essential	Combine together	Razed to the ground
Absolutely necessary	Exact replica	Revert back
Advance warning	Exactly the same	Reliving again
Added bonus	Free gift	Shorter in length
Admission of responsibility (admit)	Future plans	Surrounded on all sides
Aid and abet	In the absence of (without)	Successful achievement
Alternative choice	Join together	Sudden impulse
Attach together	Joint collaboration	Sum total
At this moment in time (now)	Made good their escape	Technical jargon
Basic essentials	Merge together	Tiny speck
By virtue of the fact that (because)	Minute detail	Top priority
Close proximity	New innovation	Unexpected emergency
Collaborate together	Oblong in shape	Unexpected surprise
Consensus of opinion	Patently obvious	Was of the opinion that (thought)
	Plummet down	With the exception of
	Prior experience	
	Put in an appearance	