

Christiane Schmidt

Scientific Writing in English

Homework Set

Exercise 1 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

Anti-inflammatory drugs may be protective for the occurrence of Alzheimer's Disease.

Exercise 2 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

Injuries to the brain and spinal cord have long been known to be among the most devastating and expensive of all injuries to treat medically.

Exercise 3 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

We will refer to this model as a flight (leg) based spill model.

Exercise 4 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

An IQ test measures an individual's abilities to perform functions that usually fall in the domains of verbal communication, reasoning, and performance on tasks that represent motor and spatial capabilities.

Exercise 5 (Active voice: Rewrite):

General dysfunction of the immune system has been suggested at the leukocyte level in both animal and human studies.

Exercise 6 (Active voice: Rewrite):

Cigarette ads were designed to appeal especially to children.

Exercise 7 (Active voice: Rewrite):

A recommendation was made by the DSMB committee that the study be halted.

Exercise 8 (Active voice: Rewrite):

It was concluded by the editors that the data had been falsified by the authors.

Exercise 9 (Use of verbs: Rewrite):

There are multiple other mechanisms that are important, but most of them are suspected to only have a small impact or are only important because of impact on one of the three primary mechanisms.

Exercise 10 (Use of verbs: Rewrite):

It is suspected that the importance of temperature has more to do with impacting rates of other reactions than being a mechanism of disinfection itself since ponds are rarely hot enough for temperature alone to cause disinfection.

Exercise 11 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

Clinical seizures have been estimated to occur in 0.5% to 2.3% of the neonatal population.

Exercise 12 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

The reason we were late is that there was an accident on Interstate 26.

Exercise 13 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

While the word 'retread' may generally have a negative connotation, using retreaded or recapped tires is standard procedure in aviation and is regarded as being the most practical, economical, and safe method for maintaining proper landing gear function.

Exercise 14 (Cut the clutter: Rewrite):

However, Russia currently does not have a yard capable of building aircraft carriers.

Exercise 15 (Express co-ordinate ideas in similar form: Rewrite):

A time not for words, but action.

Exercise 16 (Use strong verbs: Rewrite):

Important studies to examine the descriptive epidemiology of autism, including the prevalence and changes in the characteristics of the population over time, have begun.

Exercise 17 (Rewrite the paragraph):

Although the methodological approaches are similar, the questions posed in classic epidemiology and clinical epidemiology are different. In classic epidemiology, epidemiologists pose a question about the epidemiology of a disease in a population of people. Causal associations are important to identify because, if the causal factor identified can be manipulated or modified, prevention of disease is possible. On the other hand, in clinical epidemiology, clinicians pose a question about the prognosis of a disease in a population of patients. Prognosis can be regarded as a set of outcomes and their associated probabilities following the occurrence of some defining event or diagnosis that can be a symptom, sign, test result or disease.

Exercise 18 (Punctuation):

Check the punctuation in the examples below, rewrite the sentences if necessary.

- (a) The British are notoriously bad at learning foreign languages, the Dutch are famously good at it.
- (b) Implementation proceeded at a rapid pace for at least a couple of years as so-called liberal bilateral agreements were negotiated with Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Israel, The Netherlands, Belgium and, to a lesser degree, Germany.
- (c) Darwin's Origin of Species published in 1859 revolutionized biological thinking.
- (d) The flight attendant role revolves around two major responsibilities, safety and service.
- (e) Sales in 2005 amounted to \$170 billion, broken down as follows: aircraft, \$89.1 billion, missiles, \$15.3 billion, space-related materials, \$37.3 billion, and related products and services, \$28.3 billion.
- (f) Other important commodities purchased by the aerospace industry include primary, nonferrous metals; for example, copper, aluminum, lead; radio, TV, and communications equipment; and scientific and controlling instruments.

Exercise 19 ("Spelling"):

Check the sentences and rewrite if necessary:

- (a) There is fewer pollution in the air, but there are less particles of dust.

- (b) Guests may easily assume that the plane their boarding is fully owned by their host.
- (c) Who's money is on the table?
- (d) There are many ways to determine the type of aircraft being used on you're next flight.
- (e) A bomb-proof lining made from multiple layers of fabrics and composites is tested to prove it could contain the force of an explosion in the luggage hold of an aircraft.
- (f) All of the propeller effects will vary with the speed of the aircraft because at some high power setting, greater thrust exists at lower speeds (remember an aircraft accelerates until thrust equals drag and an aircraft in equilibrium has no excess thrust until power is increased).
- (g) For an airplane with a propeller that spins clockwise as viewed from the rear, the moments cause a left yaw.

Exercise 20 (“BUGS”):

Can you spot any “BUGS”? Please correct them.

- (a) Henry never slept, so that he was occasionally tired.
- (b) Wind tunnel research on conventional single-engine aircraft indicate, that about 6/7 of the total yawing moment is produced by the spiraling slipstream and the rest is from asymmetrical thrust.
- (c) We have established the Ascend Aircraft Investment Index (AII) as a dedicated solution to benchmark the rewards and risks of aircraft leasing against those of other industries. We will also discuss the low correlation between returns from aircraft leasing and the general economy or the performance of other indices, and its causes.
- (d) Then President-elect Barack Obama said that every one was proud of Sullenberger's “heroic and graceful job in landing the damaged aircraft”.
- (e) Computerized reservation systems/global distribution systems (CRS's/GDS's) display airline schedules and prices for use by agents in making reservations.
- (f) The pilot checked if it rained.
- (g) A worm can literally bring the Internet to its knees.