Aggie Grammar Guide: Revising To-Be Verbs

Answer Key

Intermediate Practice
What follows are possible revisions to alleviate to be verb construction in order to clarify ideas or make the sentence more precise.

1) This technology solves the current conundrum America faces.
2) People can access the right expertise at the right time.
3) However, sometimes things go wrong with vaccines, causing some complications, but that rarely happens.
4) Many debate whether voluntary associations during the time of the Great Reforms succeeded in shaping a middle-class identity.
5) Although Barban and Kurkjian agree on the importance of certain details of the short story, the reasoning behind their importance differs.
6) In addition, this section includes only English and the author does not use figurative language.

Advanced Practice
What follows are the location of each to be verb bolded in the original sentence and then possible revisions to each sentence that alleviate to be verb constructions while clarifying meaning.

1) Original: A hybrid is a vehicle whose powertrain combines two or more sources of power that can directly or indirectly propel the vehicle.
Revision: A hybrid vehicle’s powertrain combines two or more sources of power that directly or indirectly propel the vehicle.

2) Original: That is why it is important for cultural values to continue in Inupiat communities because it allows them to reflect on their cultural values and see their importance in the Inupiat community.
Revision: Cultural values must continue in Inupiat communities because these values encourage the community to reflect upon them and see their importance.

3) Original: The way that pizza has been changed in different food cultures shows how dough is still used as a main ingredient but still not prepared like its original background which is the Italian way using leavened dough.
Revision: Although different cultures have deviated from the Italian version which uses unleavened dough, pizza remains important in various food cultures.

4) Original: Chinese Mandarin is my first language, and I am fluent in English since I learned it over ten years.
Necessary to be verbs (No revision): Chinese Mandarin is my first language, and I am fluent in English since I learned it over ten years. (The to be verbs in this sentence are linking verbs and necessary to maintain meaning.)