

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.)