

## Aggie Grammar Guide: Revising To-Be Verbs

### Intermediate Practice

Revise the following sentences to eliminate **to be** verbs without altering meaning. Feel free to revise the main verb to make it stronger or more active.

Please note, because revising **to be** verbs deals with style more than grammar rules, there may be multiple revision options although you will see only one option in the answer key. Compare your revision to the possible revision and determine if one is more effective. One way to do that is to determine which revision has fewer words but still maintains the original sentence's meaning.

*Example: In conclusion, **to be** a Doctor requires a lot of knowledge, and **that is** why doctors charge so much.*

*Revision: In conclusion, becoming a doctor requires a lot of knowledge, and doctors charge so much because of that.*

- 1) This technology is a solution to the current conundrum America is facing.
  
- 2) People are able to get the right expertise at the right time.
  
- 3) However, sometimes things go wrong with vaccines and there are some complications, but it is rare when that happens.
  
- 4) Many debate whether voluntary associations during the time of the Great Reforms were successful 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 is different.
  
- 6) In addition, this section is all English and the author does not use figurative language.

**Advanced Practice**

First, for each sentence, underline all the **to be** verbs; some sentences have more than one. Second, in some of the sentences, unnecessary **to be** verb constructions cause confusion. If the sentence is confusing and the **to be** verb should be cut, revise it to clarify the idea without losing meaning. Are there any **to be** verbs that must remain? If so, explain why the **to be** verb(s) is/are necessary.

Please note, because revising **to be** verbs deals with style more than grammar rules, there may be multiple revision options although you will see only one option in the answer key. Compare your revision to the answer and determine if one is more effective. One way to do that is to determine which revision has fewer words but still maintains the original sentence's meaning.

*Example:*      *Mobile phones **are** key products to make the system succeed because they **are** easily **handled** by most people even people who did not receive sufficient education.*

*Revision:*      *Mobile phones **increase** the system's success because most people **can** easily **use** them.*

*Example:*      *The purpose of this section **is** to explain the how (what they will use), why (reasons for creating the product), who (the population), and where (the location).*

*Necessary **to be** verb:* *We could not revise this sentence to cut the **to be** verb without cutting the word "purpose" which is an academic term necessary to maintain the writer's idea.*

- 1) A hybrid is a vehicle whose powertrain combines two or more sources of power that can directly or indirectly propel the vehicle.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 of using leavened dough.
- 4) Chinese Mandarin is my first language, and I am fluent in English since I learned it over ten years.