# Some common examples of superfluous, awkward, unnecessary, or unnecessarily-long phrases or words

**It has been shown that** many eutrophic freshwater bodies worldwide **are facing** high potential risk to form blooms occurring toxic cyanobacteria mass frequently …

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Many eutrophic freshwater bodies face high risk of frequent toxic cyanobacterial blooms …

**In a study by** Smith et al. (1967), they showed that …

→

Smith et al. (1967) showed that …

**In order** to determine the levels of diversity …

→

To determine the levels of diversity …

We **utilized** a linear regression to test …

→

We **used** a linear regression to test …

The authors found **a large number of** …

→

The authors found many …

The analyses **are dependent on** …

→

The analyses depend on

In **the majority of** studies …

→

In **most** studies …

**At the present time** … **At this point in time** …

→

**At present** … **Currently** …

Future research **is needed to** assess …

→

Future research should assess …

**It is worth noting that** … **It should be noted** … forest amphibians can succumb to chytrid disease …

→

Forest amphibians can succumb to chytrid disease …

**These results suggest that species richness may possibly relate to habitat complexity …**

→

These results suggest that species richness relates to habitat complexity …

**In general use simple direct language. Examples of words to avoid …**
discern, methodology, elucidate

**Use instead …**

test, method, show

**Avoid using unnecessary adverbs …**

e.g. The Andes Mountains are very high …

**Simply indicate that they are 'high' and if you wish to bolster the assertion cite some simple statistics.**

**Due to the fact that …**

e.g. Tree swallow populations are declining regionally due to the fact that insects are emerging asynchronously with peak breeding …

**Use instead … 'because'**

e.g. Tree swallow populations are declining regionally because insects are emerging asynchronously with peak breeding …

# Other words and phrases to avoid in scientific writing

(see https://blog.scipress.com/posts/words-to-avoid-in-academic-writing)

**Contractions**

For example …

Can't = cannot
doesn't  or don't = does not or do not
isn't = is not

**Slang**

For example …

a couple of = several

**Colloquialisms & Idioms**

to get through it = to survive
to get out of hand = to be no longer under control
a drop in the bucket = few or little

**Clichés**

in a twinkling of an eye = immediately, instantly