

The original sentence gets off to a fuzzy start with its use of the expletive; add in all of the redundancy, and this sentence is just too wordy to communicate clearly. The first revised version cuts out the redundancy and cuts quickly to a clear subject: “Congress’s proposal.” The second revised version uses the there-expletive appropriately—to call attention to the chance for frustration, not frustration itself.

Example: **It is** necessary for us to agree upon what the decided solution is and how we should implement it.

Revised: We must agree upon a solution and implement it.

Revised: It is necessary that we agree on a solution and implement it.

This example uses an “it is” expletive—also known as a cleft sentence—to point to the necessity of something. However, the rest of the sentence wallows in wordiness. If we cut the redundancy, we can begin to see the outlines of a call to action (in the first revision) or a pointed assertion (in the second revision).

Rewrite the sentences below to remove the expletives.

1. It is important to always start your essay at least two weeks before it is due.
2. There is something clearly needing to be done about the lack of office space.
3. There has been a sudden crisis that has affected every individual within this business establishment that needs to be solved before we can move on to our plans of success.
4. There are several facts that prove your claim is wrong.
5. It is necessary to know the outcome of the play before you cheer.
6. There is a lot of repetition in the poem, and it brings up a lot of questions about the validity of the author’s argument that technology is harming nature.
7. It was when Mary noticed that they had lost the battle that Mary glanced at Bob.

The following are possible answers for the activity.

1. Always start your essay at least two weeks before it is due.
2. We must do something about the lack of office space.
3. The crisis affecting the business must be solved before we can be successful.
4. Many of these facts prove that your claim is wrong.
5. You should know the outcome of the play before you cheer.
6. The repetition in the poem complicates the author’s argument that technology is harming nature.
7. When she noticed they had lost the battle, Mary glanced at Bob.