

## Partie 1

# Du mot à la phrase

This is a ~~very good~~ idea, ~~but~~ it is ~~very bad~~ in this case.

*particularly relevant*      ; *on the other hand*      *totally inappropriate*

The diagram illustrates the process of refining a sentence. The original sentence is "This is a very good idea, but it is very bad in this case." Three arrows point from the underlined words to their replacements: "very good" is replaced by "particularly relevant", "but" is replaced by "; on the other hand", and "very bad" is replaced by "totally inappropriate".

## Unité 1 Enrichir son expression

### A Enrichir son lexique / Éviter les répétitions et approximations

- Certains mots trop courants, les répétitions et des termes trop approximatifs tels que *it*, *this* ou *that* sont à éviter. Variez votre expression et utilisez des pronoms personnels ou *the former* (celui-là)/*the latter* (celui-ci) pour éviter les répétitions. Voici quelques exemples de termes à éviter et des synonymes possibles.

	N'écrivez pas	Préférez
<b>Pour donner une opinion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <i>think</i> women deserve equal rights.</li> <li>• Male employers' attitude is <i>bad</i>.</li> <li>• It is <i>good</i> to use anonymous CVs.</li> <li>• This is a <i>good</i> worker.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <i>feel/reckon/deem/believe</i> ...</li> <li>• Male employers' attitude is <i>reprehensible/objectionable/unsatisfactory/inadequate/disadvantageous/unpleasant</i>.</li> <li>• Using anonymous CVs is <i>beneficial/worthwhile/profitable</i>.</li> <li>• This is a <i>skilled/competent/talented/exemplary</i> worker.</li> </ul>
<b>Pour décrire une situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a <i>big</i> pay gap.</li> <li>• He made an <i>important</i> decision.</li> <li>• It was a <i>small</i> mistake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pay gap is <i>significant/huge/consequent</i>.</li> <li>• He made a <i>major/capital/crucial</i> decision.</li> <li>• It was a <i>minor/insignificant/negligible</i> mistake.</li> </ul>
<b>Pour évoquer un problème, une solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination is a <i>current problem</i>.</li> <li>• It is <i>difficult</i> to gain experience.</li> <li>• This solution <i>helps</i> to progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination is a <i>topical issue/widespread bane/common plague/major pitfall</i>.</li> <li>• Gaining experience is a <i>challenge/is arduous/tricky</i>.</li> <li>• This is an <i>extremely advantageous</i> solution which <i>allows</i> progressing.</li> </ul>
<b>Pour décrire une évolution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rate <i>augmented a lot</i>.</li> <li>• The value of the pound <i>fell a lot</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rate <i>skyrocketed/increased sharply</i>.</li> <li>• The value of the pound <i>plummeted/dropped dramatically/collapsed</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Pour nuancer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was <i>very</i> shocked.</li> <li>• There was <i>much</i> protest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was <i>deeply/extremely/considerably</i> shocked.</li> <li>• A <i>massive wave</i> of protest occurred.</li> </ul>
<b>Pour présenter des conséquences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prejudice <i>causes</i> inequalities and resentment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prejudice <i>entails/incurs/generates/fosters/triggers</i> inequalities and <i>fuels</i> resentment.</li> </ul>

- Voici d'autres synonymes pour enrichir votre expression.

- **Thing**

Device, object, material, equipment, belongings, goods, principle, situation, activity.

Ex. *People often forget their belongings in the rest rooms.*

- **Good**

Fine, superior, adequate, appropriate, of high quality, skillful, talented, skilled, healthful, healthy, beneficial, convenient, fitting, agreeable, pleasant, smart, impressive, generous, pleasurable, delightful, congenial, festive, exemplary, true.

Ex. *The director took an effective measure to curb absenteeism.*

- **Bad**

Poor, inferior, second-rate, reprehensible, objectionable, unsatisfactory, inadequate, disadvantageous, unpleasant, disagreeable, unfavourable, critical, serious, severe, damaging, detrimental, harmful, crude, vulgar, worthless, counterproductive.

Ex. *Addressing too wide a range of themes could be damaging and counterproductive.*

- **Big**

Colossal, huge, tremendous, vast, gigantic, hefty, immense, massive, substantial, consequent, considerable, unlimited, limitless, major.

Ex. *Customers complain about the consequent loss of security. Spurred by the hefty challenge, the team provided premium quality services.*

- **Small**

Tiny, minor, insignificant, weak, negligible, thin, narrow, limited, insufficient, meagre.

Ex. *The law had a limited consequence for an insignificant number of workers.*

- **Difficult**

Hard, inappropriate, strenuous, arduous, tough, demanding, painful, inconvenient, tricky, awkward, unfavourable, unsuitable, complicated, disadvantageous, troublesome, exasperating.

Ex. *Balancing professional and personal life is becoming a strenuous task for women. The new law is disadvantageous for workers.*

- **Important**

Principal, indispensable, main, chief, essential, key, major, dominant, crucial, vital, critical, paramount, phenomenal, powerful, influential, significant, of extreme importance, valuable; a cornerstone.

Ex. *Trust is the cornerstone of a successful company. The employees have made a significant contribution to the company. The project is of paramount importance.*

- **Interesting**

Fascinating, compelling, absorbing, appealing, attractive, stimulating, exciting, significant, worthwhile, noteworthy, remarkable, valuable, opportune.

Ex. *It is worthwhile to add a few pages to the contract. The actor's noteworthy performance was applauded. The staff will give you valuable information.*

- **Dangerous**

Hazardous, risky, perilous, threatening, menacing, jeopardising, harmful, noxious, toxic, detrimental, insecure, unsafe, precarious, vulnerable.

Ex. *Pollution is caused by noxious substances. The careless attitude of young drivers jeopardises the security of all.*

- **Useful**

Helpful, practical, convenient, handy, advantageous, meaningful, indispensable, worthwhile, fruitful, productive, constructive, profitable, beneficial, effective, efficient, needed, purposeful, capable, competent, skillful, experienced.

Ex. *It is worthwhile taking into account that we need to agree with the majority. Manipulators are skillful at hiding their tactics. This is a very handy bag.*

- **Useless**

Pointless, futile, purposeless, vain, impractical, fruitless, unachievable, hopeless, to no avail, ineffective, worthless, valueless, inadequate, inappropriate.

Ex. *He fought for his rights but to no avail. Employees lose time in purposeless meetings.*

- **Advantage**

Benefit, profit, gain, help, opportunity, interest, convenience, value, asset, plus, reward, bonus, boon, blessing, perk, privilege, usefulness, worth, reason.

Ex. *The new library is a boon to our city. Access to a free car park is one of the perks of my job. The measure has already proven its worth in the past.*

- **Problem**

Bane, difficulty, nuisance, issue, trouble, worry, concern, snag, hitch, drawback, downside, predicament, quandary, incident, mishap, plight, nuisance, complication, setback, obstacle, curse, plague, burden.

Ex. *I am in a quandary about how we could solve this issue. Pollution is the bane of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What was a serious setback turned out to be an interesting opportunity.*

- **Idea**

Plan, design, scheme, project, proposal, proposition, suggestion, reason, objective, object, aim, target, purpose, goal, end, view, viewpoint, judgment, opinion, belief.

Ex. *The committee accepted my proposal. The student had a valid reason for skipping the class.*

- **Solution**

Answer, result, resolution, output, key, formula, guide, clue, explanation.

Ex. *The factory doubled its output thanks to a new 3D printer. We had no clue as to what other countries were going to do.*

- **To permit**

Assist, help, aid, improve, allow, enable, support, entitle, empower, legalise, let.

Ex. *Technology allows working faster. 16-year-olds are not entitled to vote yet.*

- **To increase**

Ex. Grow, raise, rise, expand, swell, soar, climb, rocket, skyrocket, surge, escalate, improve, intensify, spread, lengthen, widen, accrue, proliferate, multiply, augment, extend, inflate, enhance, boost, enrich, aggravate, worsen, pick up momentum.

Ex. *The company raised all salaries. Taxes have risen tremendously.*

- **To decrease**

Lessen, reduce, plummet, diminish, drop, decline, dwindle, ebb, subside, slump, plunge, lower, deplete, weaken, curtail, minimise, slash.

Ex. *When prices plummet, consumption skyrockets. The government aims to slash its budget deficit.*

- **To prevent**

Stop, hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct, thwart, disallow, prohibit, ban, forbid, exclude, deter, turn aside, avert, stave off, ward off, shut out, check.

Ex. *The police thwarted the robber's plans. The most important is to stave off unemployment and favour know-how in the firm.*

- **To face**

Tackle, deal with, handle, confront, cope with, encounter, fight, oppose, contend with.

Ex. *Children who have to contend with obesity often face problems in later life. The manager handles criticism well.*

- **To think**

Assume, feel, reckon, believe, imagine, suppose, consider, guess.

Ex. *Spectators guessed something wrong had happened. I reckon that my chances of succeeding are quite low.*

- **Very/much/a lot**

Extremely, deeply, severely, intensely, highly, exceptionally, tremendously, hugely, rather, quite, pretty.

Ex. *He was deeply affected by the sad news. Adapting to a foreign culture is tremendously complicated.*

- **A lot of**

Much, many, a great deal of, a large amount of, a swarm of, plenty of, loads of, full of, a host of, numerous.

Ex. *People are full of hope even though a swarm of robots has invaded workplaces.*

- **To say**

Mention, report, put forward, highlight, enhance, stress, explain, express, claim, stipulate, indicate, show, declare, state, announce, insist, observe, add, argue, contend.

Ex. *The journalist highlights the tragic effects of the measure. He contends that the government should come back on its decision by stressing the need for consensus.*



### Application

#### 1. Choisissez l'alternative la plus adaptée parmi les trois propositions

- This is a **good** answer → enjoyable/relevant/congenial
- He bought **bad** items → useless/wrong/awkward
- The crime rate **increased** a lot → plummeted/improved/skyrocketed
- The journalist **says** that the system is unfair → mentions/speaks/argues
- The attack caused a **big** shock → outstanding/tremendous/massive
- The president **decreased** the budget → slashed/declined/dropped

#### 2. Remplacez les termes en gras par des mots plus précis ou des synonymes.

- You have to work **very** hard to succeed. → .....
- Higher education **helps** you to get a well-paid job. → .....
- We can easily forgive **small** mistakes but it is **difficult** to ignore **important** blunders.  
→ ..... / ..... / .....
- I saw an **interesting** document online. → .....
- That was a **very good** film. → .....
- The unemployment rate has **increased a lot**. → .....
- We **think** that being uneducated is a **big** problem today.  
→ ..... / .....
- Doing internships has been a **very useful** advantage. → .....

#### 3. Remplacez les répétitions par des pronoms personnels, *the latter* ou *the former*.

The internet offers a lot of benefits to businesses and consumers. Consumers (a) can have access to information on businesses (b); this information (c) is gathered through online catalogues. These catalogues (d) allow consumers to order products through the internet. Consumers (e) can save time by ordering their products (f) on the websites.

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| a. .... | b. .... | c. .... |
| d. .... | e. .... | f. .... |

4. Étudiez les deux textes suivants et remplissez le tableau en comparant comment la même idée est exprimée différemment.

Texte 1

Today, more and more people have a smartphone and these people sometimes become addicted to their smartphone. This is more and more dangerous for their health and it is very bad for their social life. Their social life is very limited because they think that it is more important to have many friends than good friends. They think their virtual life is more interesting and that meeting real people is useless. They say that phones permit them to forget their problems and help them to face difficult moments.

Texte 2

Nowadays, an increasing number of people own a smartphone. They sometimes become addicted to this device, which is increasingly harmful for their health and particularly detrimental to their social life. The latter is rather limited as they reckon that it is more essential to have a great number of friends rather than true and quality friends. They imagine their virtual life is more thrilling and that meeting real people is pointless. They argue that phones allow them to escape their troubles and enable them to cope with painful moments.

Texte 1	Texte 2
<i>Today</i>	<i>Nowadays</i>

 C'est à vous !

Proposez une version améliorée du texte suivant en évitant les répétitions, mots trop courants et approximations.

Pollution is becoming more and more a big problem. Pollution has increased a lot these last few years. People think it is bad for their health but they find it difficult to change things. There is no good or bad solution but it is very important to face the problem or we will have to undergo the consequences of this. We should decrease the use of non-renewable energies and increase the use of renewable energies. Renewable energies are very useful and present a lot of advantages; they are in big quantities but their problem is that they are very expensive.

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## B Varier les tournures

- Pour enrichir votre expression, vous devez varier les tournures. Ainsi, au lieu d'utiliser **there is-was/there are-were**, commencez par ce qui suit et introduisez un verbe plus précis, utilisez un passif ou changez totalement la tournure.

Par exemple, au lieu d'écrire "*There are many old people in the South of France*", préférez "*Many old people live in the South of France*" ou "*The mean age is high in this town*". Au lieu d'écrire "*There are place settings on the table*", écrivez "*Place settings lay on the table*" ou "*The table is laid*". Au lieu d'écrire "*There are many motives of disagreement between the government and trade unions*", écrivez "*A lot of disagreement has emerged between the government and trade unions*" ou "*The government and trade unions disagree on a number of ideas*".

- Voici **quelques alternatives possibles** :

- There was a crack in the wall → We noticed/observed a crack in the wall.
- There is a major crisis → We are going through a major crisis.
- There are more poor people → The number of poor people is increasing.
- There is less hope to find a job quickly → The hope to find a job quickly is dwindling.
- There were many workers at the meeting → Many workers attended the meeting.
- There was a strong explosion → A strong explosion occurred/happened/took place.
- There is a major strike in the firm → A major strike has been organised in the firm.
- There was a new plan → A new plan was undertaken/enforced/implemented.
- There is a discount on PCs in the shop → The shop is offering a discount on PCs.

### Application

1. Comparez les deux passages suivants. Soulignez ce par quoi **there was/there were** ont été remplacés dans la deuxième version.

- a. There was a great concert in the city centre yesterday. There were a lot of people at the show even though there was a lot of wind and there was snow falling. There was an intermission and there were a lot of delicious desserts for the public.
- b. A great concert took place in the city centre yesterday. A lot of people attended the show even though it was extremely windy and the snow had started to fall. During the intermission, a lot of delicious desserts were served to the public.

2. Réécrivez ces phrases en supprimant **there +be**. Utilisez le terme proposé.

- a. Last year, there were two events in the headlines around the world (make).

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- b. There is a serious current economic crisis in developed countries (go through).

.....

- c. There are more and more people who have to find a second job (observe).

.....

- d. There were fewer people at the match than last week (attend).

.....

- e. There was less unemployment before automation (cause).

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## C Adapter le registre de langue, exprimer son opinion, rester neutre

- Prendre en compte les attentes et les spécificités du lectorat est une compétence nécessaire à tout candidat. Une copie de concours ne s'adresse ni à un élève du secondaire ni à un ami, mais à un membre du jury. Une langue écrite trop familière, reproduisant une façon de parler orale et multipliant *like, kind of, sort of* par exemple, n'est pas suffisamment cadrée par rapport à l'exercice attendu.
- Le **style télégraphique** est à **proscrire** : rédiger des phrases complètes est absolument nécessaire. N'élidez pas de mots (écrivez « *all the people who* » plutôt que « *all those who* ») et soyez le plus précis possible (« *all the patients/workers/students...who* »).
- Les **contractions** sont à **éviter** dans une langue écrite soutenue. L'emploi de formes contractées telles que « *he doesn't* » au lieu de « *he does not* », ou encore « *That's why* » au lieu de « *That is the reason why* » est à bannir : vous ne devez pas faire preuve de familiarité envers l'examineur ni vous adresser à lui. Évitez de parler à la première personne du singulier.
- Préférez des **tournures plutôt neutres ou impersonnelles et des substantifs inanimés** à l'utilisation d'êtres humains comme sujet de la phrase (*It is essential/crucial/worthwhile/meaningful to...*). Plutôt que d'écrire « *We may wonder if ...* », écrivez « *The question comes down to wondering whether...* » ou « *The question hinges on whether ...* ». Cependant, dans l'essai, il peut vous être demandé d'exprimer votre point de vue, mais là encore évitez de dire « *I think* » ou pire encore « *As for me/personally I think* » ou « *\*according to me* » : il est préférable de trouver des alternatives telles que des adjectifs ou des adverbes d'opinion (*outrageous, fruitless, alarming, worrying, unfortunately, sadly, hopefully...*).
- Un document **formel** utilisera le **passif** (be + participe passé), des **substantifs verbaux** (gérondif en -ing) plutôt que des structures verbales et des **mots d'origine latine** plutôt que des mots d'origine germanique.
- Voici quelques exemples : le même message est transmis au moyen de trois énoncés, allant du très formel à l'informel. Regardez les différences.
  1. The unpleasant climatic conditions obliged the president to return earlier than scheduled.  
*The president was obliged to return earlier than planned due to poor weather conditions.*  
**The president had to go back sooner than planned because the weather was so bad.**
  2. Please await instructions before dispatching items.  
*Please wait for instructions before sending items off.*  
**Don't send anything off until you're told to do so.**
  3. Essential measures should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.  
*One should undertake any necessary measures at the earliest opportunity.*  
**You should do whatever you have to as soon as you can.**
  4. Prior to the discovery of America, potatoes were not consumed in Europe.  
*Before America was discovered, potatoes were not eaten in Europe.*  
**Before they discovered America, Europeans didn't eat potatoes.**