

MET3020 Grammar and Syntax Help

Eliminate unnecessary words and/or phrases:

Instead of “to our west pushes eastward” say “approaches from the west”

Instead of “in the day on Tuesday” say “on Tuesday”

Instead of “coming into our region” say “approaching”

Instead of “out of our area” say “away”

Instead of “moves to our east” say “passes”

Instead of “goes through” say “passes”

Instead of “couple of” say “few”

Instead of “lots of” say abundant, copious, or plentiful

Instead of “low temperatures will range from” say low temperatures from...”

Instead of “as the day goes on” say “as the day progresses”

Instead of “tomorrow will features the same kind of weather” say “tomorrow will features similar weather”

Instead of “an area of high pressure from Canada” say “Canadian high pressure”

Instead of “more showers for later on Sunday” say “more showers late Sunday”

Instead of “impact us” say “affect us”

Instead of “calling it crazy weather” call it “complex” or “complicated”

Instead of “after a front passes by” say “after a front passes”

Instead of “snow on Friday” say “snow Friday”

Instead of “the past couple of days” say “recently”

Instead of “mostly sunny skies” say “mostly sunny”

Instead of “cloudiness” say “clouds”

Instead of “small chance” say “slight chance”

Instead of “during the evening hours” say “during the evening”

Instead of “start off” say “begin”

Instead of “tapering off” say “tapering”

Use that apostrophe correctly:

Don't say “high's will be” say “highs will be”

Remember, you're = you are, and your = your forecast

It's = it is, its = the cold front and its precipitation

Don't be confusing:

In many instances, you can probably eliminate “the area”, “our weather”, “our area”

Avoid vague words and phrases like: “some”, “maybe”, “possibly”, “with a chance”, “a chance”, “some leftover”, “some lingering”, “just a few”

Use an active voice (when possible use present tense):

Instead of saying, “high pressure exiting the area” say “as high pressure exists”

Instead of saying, “a much colder air mass will be in place for Friday” say “a much colder air mass arrives Friday”

Other pet peeves:

I’m not a huge fan of the word “partly” when describing cloud cover. What part are we talking about? I suggest you try to word your forecasts as to which dominates, the sun or the clouds – especially for the first two forecast days.

Avoid words that are fluffy sounding and don’t describe much as: “nice”

Avoid words that try to attach a predictable behavior to weather as: “typical”, “normal”, “usual”

Use average instead of normal, there is no such thing as normal weather, it is what it is.

Avoid words that impart too much judgment on weather as: “nice day” “beautiful day”. Not everyone likes the same weather...however, if it’s been cloudy the last 10 days and tomorrow’s forecast calls for sun, it would be safe to say something like, “we’ll finally see some sun tomorrow...”.