

Exercises

A. **Eliminate the unneeded *thats*, *there is*'s, *there are*'s, *there was*'s and *there were*'s from the following sentences.**

1. There are half a dozen vintage airplanes standing in the foreground of the museum.
2. Police officials said that there was a 13 percent decrease in drunk-driving citations on the state's highways, roads and streets last year.
3. There was a surgeon working intently on a prone figure.
4. President Clinton said that welfare reform should include safeguards for people who cannot find jobs.
5. Around the world, there are millions of children that are starving.
6. Woody Hayes, who coached the Ohio State Buckeyes football team for years, said that "there are three things that can happen when you pass the ball, and two of them are bad."
7. The police officers had a warrant and they wanted to inspect the home for weapons or drugs, but there was a pit bull keeping them from entering the front door.
8. Announcer Harry Caray says that "the more games you play, the more chances you have to break a record."
9. She quoted her grandfather, saying that "there are more ways to skin a cat than choking it with hot butter."
10. The ambassador said she wanted to know why there were not enough limousines waiting for the members of her delegation.

B. **Edit the following sentences to find a more direct tense and to replace "red flag" words:**

1. Every day while I am gardening, I am chatting with the neighbor that is hanging over the fence.
2. The mayor feels that the legislature does not understands the city's needs.
3. Prior to the meeting, he is holding a news conference.
4. She feels that her journalistic skills are much better on account of her having taken two classes last summer.
5. In order to utilize the computer adequately for his assignments, he is taking a course in word processing.

6. Due to her ongoing struggle with lung cancer, she is resigning her post as chief executive of the tobacco company.

7. The car he is offering for sale is very dilapidated.

8. She has been testifying that the man she saw that was wearing a gray hat was limping a lot.

9. The district attorney feels that the outcome of the trial is a foregone conclusion due to the confession of the suspect.

10. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. and will be ending prior to the ceremony is started.