

Chapter 5, “The Language of News”
Exercise 5, Pages 118-119

Section I: Avoid Grammatical and Vocabulary Errors

1. The mayor said the city would expand the program.
2. Hospital officials said the man who suffered a broken leg in the accident would be released sometime Wednesday.
3. Police waited for the right moment before surrounding the suspect’s house shortly after the robbery. OR—Waiting for the right moment, police surrounded the suspect’s house shortly after the robbery.

Section II: Keeping Related Words and Ideas Together

1. Voters approved by a 2-1 margin the referendum to merge the two towns.
2. David Smith pleaded guilty Wednesday in front of County Judge John Robinson to violating his probation in a burglary case.
3. The parking situation, which will be dealt with by the police chief, has been a problem for the past few months. OR—The police chief will deal with the parking situation, which has been a problem for the past few months.

Section III: Avoiding Imprecision

1. At the monthly city council meeting, the mayor ordered the city park benches be replaced. OR—The mayor, at the monthly city council meeting, ordered the city park benches be replaced.
2. The pedestrian died instantly when she was struck by the car.
3. The student population reacted when the university president announced the delay in construction of the recreation center. OR—The university president announced

a delay in construction of the recreation center, causing a reaction in the student population.

Section IV: Defining and Explaining

1. The son has meningitis, a disease that attacks the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.
2. A single B-2 Stealth bomber costs \$800 million, which equals 60,000 times the average annual income for Mississippians. OR-- A single B-2 Stealth bomber costs \$800 million. Back in 1962 that would have paid for about 80 B-52 bombers, which cost about \$10 million each.
3. The most powerful supercomputer can perform more than 150 billion calculations per second, something that would take 6 billion people using handheld calculators decades to do.

Section V: Avoiding Cliches

1. Today's sunny weather could be followed by a snowstorm by the weekend.
2. Police arrived five minutes after receiving the 911 call.
3. City Council's discussion about raising taxes turned into an argument between two council members. OR—Two council members began to argue during the City Council's discussions about raising taxes.

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