

E-Prime

$E' = E - e$
(E = the whole English language, e = to be)

The Value

- E' makes you pay attention to every word that ends up in your final draft
- E' automatically varies your verb choice
- E' puts your writing into active voice

Exceptions

- when you want to avoid assigning responsibility
(Mistakes were made.)
- when you are using the present progressive
(It is raining.)
- when you want to move a long subject to the end
(The rhizome, a modified underground stem used for storing water and nutrients, produces the leaves →
The leaves are produced by the rhizome, a modified underground stem used for . . .
- when your field frowns on the first person