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PRACTICE I: Sentence Variety

One way to avoid the hammer blows of Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) is to combine two SVO sentences into one, using one of the three methods just discussed:

1. Using an introductory word, phrase, or clause
2. Using a parenthetical
3. Using a sentence extender

Combine the following sentences into one. (The answer sheet gives one possibility; naturally, participants may come up with others.)

1. A number of policies and practices related to malaria and treatment of sick children have improved in Kenya. These changes have come about partly because of international agencies working closely with officials from the Ministry of Health.

   Because international agencies have been working closely with officials from the Ministry of Health, a number of policies and practices related to malaria and treatment of sick children have improved in Kenya.

2. There are issues that cross borders and require global action. Women’s health issues and priorities have been established as such.

   There are certain issues and priorities, such as those related to women’s health, that cross borders and require global action.

3. Also in the last decade, many countries have embarked on initiatives to expand and improve reproductive health care. These efforts gained momentum following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.

   Also in the last decade, many countries have embarked on initiatives to expand and improve reproductive health care, efforts which gained momentum following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.
4. The best way to do this is through manual vacuum aspiration (MVA). It is safer, less costly, and as effective as the traditionally used dilation and curettage (D&C).

The best way to do this is through manual vacuum aspiration (MVA), which is safer, less costly, and as effective as the traditionally used dilation and curettage (D&C).

5. It is known that people will talk about this sensitive subject. Here again, though, follow-up has been poor.

Although follow-up is poor, it is known that people will talk about this sensitive subject.

6. The other often targeted group is health personnel. Health personnel ranged from specialized hospital workers to field workers.

The other often targeted group is health personnel, ranging from specialized hospital workers to field workers.

7. It is now possible for Danida to work at macro, meso and micro levels, and to create synergies between these levels. Such complementary approaches are implemented in Ghana.

It is now possible for Danida to work at macro, meso, and micro levels, and to create synergies between these levels, complementary approaches already being implemented in Ghana.

8. Another area largely driven by Congress is the practice of tying aid exclusively to US sources. This can reduce its effectiveness by limiting competition, increasing costs, and undermining local ownership.

Another area largely driven by Congress is the practice of tying aid exclusively to U.S. sources, a practice that can reduce aid effectiveness by limiting competition, increasing costs, and undermining local ownership.

9. The Health Facility Mapping summary report found that only 16 percent of facilities had power. This proportion was considerably lower than that found in the HFS.

The Health Facility Mapping summary report found that only 16 percent of facilities had power, a proportion considerably lower than that found in the HFS.
10. While Denmark’s flexibility and speedy response make it well-placed to work in fragile states, political considerations may hamper the ability to define a coherent entry and exit strategy. This is a challenge for all DAC countries.

While Denmark’s flexibility and speedy response make it well-placed to work in fragile states, political considerations may hamper the ability to define a coherent entry and exit strategy, a challenge for all DAC countries.

11. Development co-operation is an opportunity to exert leadership in the world. It should be an integral part of foreign affairs and national strategy.

Development co-operation, an opportunity to exert leadership in the world, should be an integral part of foreign affairs and national strategy.
PRACTICE II: Writing With Agents

Rewrite these sentences using agents.

1. A plan for addressing any requirements will be reflected in final agreements with each subgrantee.

   The final agreements with each subgrantee will reflect a plan…

2. However, the government has not yet indicated when such a proposal will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and parliament.

   However, the government has not yet indicated when it will submit such a proposal to…

3. To the extent practical, these tools will be implemented by the PVOs themselves in a participatory manner.

   To the extent practical the PVOs themselves will implement these tools…

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation were identified among the top priorities for work by members in a recent survey.

   In a recent survey members identified climate change….

5. More flexible approaches and a stronger focus on risk management are encouraged by some donors.

   Some donors encourage more….

6. There is also a perception in the field and at headquarters that these delays stem from the process of financial inspection in [the capital].

   Field and headquarters staff perceive that these delays…

7. There is also a lack of awareness of the aid effectiveness principles amongst both IPAD staff and those from other ministries who are closely involved in development co-operation.

   Neither IPAD staff nor those from other ministries closely involved in development co-operation are aware of the aid effectiveness principles.

8. Talking with female rather than male professionals was strongly preferred by women.

   Women strongly preferred talking to female rather than male professionals.
9. Two important service delivery functions, training and supervision, were identified as needing improvement.

Two important service delivery functions, training and supervision, need to be improved.

10. Myths are perpetuated by governments, the media, and others regarding trafficking.

Government, the media, and others perpetuate myths about trafficking.

11. If the above strategies are diligently implemented over a five-year period, it is our expectation that significant cumulative effects will be realized.

If the above strategies are diligently implemented over a five-year period, we expect that significant cumulative effects will be realized.

12. It is the responsibility of the auditor to document the actual performance of these tests.

The auditor is responsible for (should) document the actual performance of these tests.

13. The rules should be followed, and if doing so is perceived by the Lome office to seriously jeopardize program objectives, then authorization should be sought from DFAM to extend the liquidation period. (Three examples)

The Lome field office should follow the rules, but if the office perceives that doing so could seriously jeopardize program objectives, then it should seek authorization from DFAM to extend the liquidation period.

14. The active contribution of other development actors to a common vision is needed.

Other development actors should actively contribute to a common vision.

15. The office should not allow consultants to commence work before consultancy agreements are signed.

The office should not allow consultants to begin work before they sign consultancy agreements.

16. The end assessment statement was general. No reflections on the contractor’s demonstrated capacity and performance on each of the deliverables were presented.

The end assessment statement was general and presented no reflections on the contractor’s demonstrated capacity and performance on each of the deliverables.
17. There is clearly a need for the organisation to move faster with implementing this memo.

*The organisation clearly needs to move faster to implement this memo.*

18. There was a lack of clarity at field level on how the practical applications of monitoring, review and evaluation are distinct from each other, although the conceptual distinctions are well defined in MOFA’s guidelines. (Two examples)

*Field staff (Staff in the field) were not clear about how the practical applications of monitoring, review and evaluation are distinct from each other, although the MOFA guidelines define the conceptual distinctions quite well.*
PRACTICE III: Avoiding Nominalizations

Rewrite these sentences to eliminate the nominalization.

1. This market has a tendency to be very volatile.
   
   *This market tends to be volatile.*

2. The ability of the focus group leaders to involve the audience was lacking.
   
   *The focus group leaders were unable to involve the audience.*

3. The team was unable to provide an accurate accounting of how they spent our money.
   
   *The team could not accurately account for…*

4. AID should provide timely corrections to these flaws before moving ahead with their implementation of the project. (Two noms.)
   
   *Aid should correct these flaws in a timely manner before it implements the project.*

5. If the contractor makes modifications to its statement of work, we can accept the proposal.
   
   *If the contractor modifies its statement of work, we can accept the proposal.*

6. The Mission should initiate action to acquire this contractor.
   
   *The Mission should hire this contractor.*

7. If we make the necessary clarifications concerning the new policy, everyone will understand it.
   
   *If we clarify the new policy, everyone will understand it.*

8. For inclusion in the list of PHCCs, the eligibility criteria were as follows:
   
   *To be included in the list of PHCCs, the eligibility criteria were as follows:*

9. The section includes an assessment of key inputs that are necessary for the provision of quality maternal and child health services. (Two noms.)
   
   *The section assesses key inputs that are needed to provide quality maternal and child health services.*
10. Natural resource managers recognized that their objectives in the conservation and management of natural resources could be undermined by high fertility rates in the areas they worked.

*Natural resource managers recognized that their objectives in conserving and managing natural resources could be undermined by high fertility rates in the areas they worked.*

11. An important component of these strategies is the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools with strong promise.

*An important component of these strategies is developing new diagnostic and treatment tools with strong promise.*

12. Many countries have begun research projects to test integration of community-based PNC into national programs and protocols.

*Many countries have begun research projects to test integrating (or how to integrate) community-based PNC into national programs and protocols.*

13. The 2013 HFS was a follow-up survey and used the same instrument and slightly modified sampling in order to provide an assessment of the current situation of the quality of maternal and child health services in first-line health facilities in South….

*The 2013 HFS was a follow-up survey and used the same instrument and slightly modified sampling in order to assess the current quality of maternal and child health services in first-line health facilities in South….*

14. Decentralising financial authority further would also improve the timeliness and predictability of aid.

*Decentralising financial authority further would also allow aid to be more timely and predictable.*

15. The strategies included the enlistment of men who hold power, such as community or religious leaders, to support FP.

*The strategies included enlisting men who hold power, such as community or religious leaders, to support FP.*
16. The extension of HMIS to include hospitals, the harmonization of data collection tools to avoid duplication of reports and to include all programs in one database, and coordination among partners, are factors that need to be strengthened. (Fix as many as you can.)

*Extending HMIS to include hospitals, harmonizing data collection tools to avoid duplication of reports and to include all programs in one database, and coordinating partner activities are factors that need to be strengthened.*

17. The early years of the NEAP focused on the implementation of integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) associated with Madagascar’s national parks.

*The early years of the NEAP focused on implementing integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) associated with Madagascar’s national parks.*

18. Our ultimate goals are expansion in the availability and use of family planning services and reduction of unmet need in selected countries.

*Our ultimate goals are to expand the availability and use of family planning services and to reduce unmet need in selected countries.*

19. The goal of the one-week workshop is to increase the use of research findings for the improvement of policies and programs.

*The goal of the one-week workshop is to increase the use of research findings to improve policies and programs.*

20. The Population Reference Bureau and Futures Institute propose a minimal five-year program to support initiatives and to build capacity for the development and communication of strategic information for policy dialogue and implementation planning in selected high fertility countries.

*The Population Reference Bureau and Futures Institute propose a minimal five-year program to support initiatives and to build capacity to develop and communicate strategic information for policy dialogue and implementation planning in selected high fertility countries.*

21. New Zealand could increase the efficiency of its development co-operation system further.

*New Zealand’s development co-operation system could be more efficient.*

22. The routine HMIS is currently operational in all states.

*The routine HMIS currently operates in all states.*
23. The involvement of the country technical partners in Immpact has improved national research capacities.

*Involving the country technical partners in Immpact has improved national research capacities.*

24. Because maternal and newborn health issues are indelibly linked, the provision of essential PNC in the community is the perfect opportunity to link maternal and newborn health interventions.

*Because maternal and newborn health issues are indelibly linked, providing essential PNC in the community is the perfect opportunity to link maternal and newborn health interventions.*
PRACTICE III: Avoiding Nominalizations—The Adjective Form

Change the noun to an adjective in these sentences.

1. The effectiveness of the audit was never in question.
   
   *There was never any question that the audit was effective.*

2. Pragmatism dominates New Zealand’s approach to development.
   
   *New Zealand’s approach to development is quite pragmatic.*

3. The donors expressed concerns about the affordability of the proposal.
   
   *The donors expressed concerns about whether or not the proposal was affordable.*

4. The explanation was lacking in clarity.
   
   *The explanation was not clear.*

5. The Ministry exhibited some reluctance about granting approval to the program. (Two noms.)
   
   *The Ministry was reluctant to approve the program.*

6. Technical experts questioned the sustainability of the project.
   
   *Technical experts questioned whether or not the project was sustainable (or could be sustained).*

7. The viability of the program was never in doubt.
   
   *There was never any doubt that the program was viable.*
PRACTICE IV: Using Conversational Word Choice

SOME WORDS YOU WILL NEVER NEED AGAIN

Here are some words that are quite common in “development-ese” that you should never need to use.

1. Utilize ________use_________________

2. Facilitate __________help__________________

3. Modality ___________way, manner, means, mode________

4. Inception __________start, beginning________________

5. Linkage ____________link, connection________________

6. Optimize _________make best use of____________________

7. Initiate __________begin, start________________________

8. Conditionalities ___________conditions___________________

9. Operationalize ______put in place, put into effect, make operational

10. Option __________choice____________________________
What’s the normal way of saying the following?

1. …will provide multiple societal benefits.
   
   *multiple social benefits*

2. Various formats will be utilized to….
   
   *…will be used*

3. Develop standardized formats for….
   
   *Develop standard formats*

4. We will carefully document conditions at the inception of project activities.
   
   *…at the start of*

5. …at the field level.
   
   *in the field*

6. To facilitate access to this information, it will be available both in hard cover form…
   
   *To make it easier to get…*

7. These are areas where IDG should bring greater policy clarity.
   
   *…should clarify the policy (or make the policy clearer)*

8. …raise public awareness of
   
   *make the public aware of*

9. …give more emphasis to
   
   *emphasize*

10. The reduction of partner countries from 84 to 57
    
    *Reducing the number of partner…*

11. …that slower growth and a more urbanized population will assist Ethiopia in making progress toward…
    
    *…help Ethiopia make progress*
12. Providers recognized they needed to attract and retain clients if they wanted to keep their jobs, making them eager to learn and implement strategies to gauge and enhance client satisfaction.

…eager to carry out strategies to measure and improve…

13. Young women who delay the birth of their first child until after adolescence have greater opportunities to acquire the education and skills necessary for raising a family and competing successfully in the job market.

have a better chance to acquire….

14. Limited research on the causal factors…

on the causes

15. Closure of health facilities

closing health facilities

16. The people may not be able to articulate this need or the need may be at a subconscious level, but when they realize their options, they recognize their own needs for change.

…the need may be subconscious, but when they realize their choices…

17. …and are in need of counselling and follow-up

need counseling and follow-up

18. Additionally, a patron database can be established that will aid in tracking individual information needs and ongoing project requests.

…that will help track