

Bad Placement of Prepositions

In the refrigerator, Sally found the custard.

Obviously, Sally was not in the refrigerator when she found the custard. This sentence should have been written as follows:

Sally found the custard in the refrigerator.

Practice Re-phrasing

1.At the bottom of the fish tank, Billy saw the catfish. (Billy saw the catfish at the bottom of the fish tank.)

2.A committee of students and teachers planned Homecoming in the library. (In the library, a committee of students and teachers planned Homecoming.)

3.We talked about the basketball game in the stands. (In the stands, we talked about the basketball game.) 4.We read about the lost kitten that was found in the local newspaper. (We read in the local newspaper about the lost kitten that was found.) 5. Tom's father saw the driver of the car that had almost hit him in the supermarket.

(In the supermarket, Tom's father saw the driver of the car that had almost hit him.)

Groucho Marx's timeless joke: "One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got into my pajamas I'll never know."

Decrease the number of words while keeping all pertinent information

Figure 2 shows a linear relationship for the data at 20°C. The data points were run through a linear regression program and r^2 was found to be equal to 0.999. This means that the data fit a linear graph exceptionally well. The conclusion drawn from this was that at 20°C the reaction was first order with respect to NaOH, ... (59 words)

Linear regression showed a linear relationship for the data with $r^2 = 0.999$ (see Figure 2), meaning that the reaction was first order with respect to NaOH. (27 words)

Figure 2 shows the linear relationship of the data ($r^2 = 0.999$), indicating first-order behavior with respect to NaOH. (19 words)

Vague writing

Identify portions of the sentences below that are vaguely written and make recommendations on how to improve the writing:

Our fittings have pressure drops and corresponding K and L/D values quite close to the literature values though somewhat lower, indicating a slightly superior product. loss coefficients (K and L/D) calculated from the pressure drops across t

This data was quite easily reproduced in subsequent experimental runs indicating they are accurate (or at least contain commonly recurring errors).

The data were very reproducible, with 95% confidence intervals of ±1% of the mean value

This and that

Please define what you mean by the word "this"!!!!

The compressibility factor (z) was found to be 0.75 at 150 psia. This value of z means that the gas was nonideal.

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The compressibility factor (z) was found to be 0.75 at 150 psia; since $z \neq 1$ the gas was nonideal.

Be careful with "it" as well so that the reader knows what "it" refers to!

Conjunctions with prepositions

The completion temperature was found for all the plant species and the results for live samples at a heating rate of 30 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ are presented in Figure 8.

The preposition "and" seems to indicate that there is a list of things to come, but all of a sudden there is a verb!

The completion temperature was found for all the plant species, and the results for live samples at a heating rate of 30 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ are presented in Figure 8.

The completion temperature was found for all the plant species; the results for live samples at a heating rate of 30 °C min⁻¹ are presented in Figure 8.

I just got this paragraph from my graduate student

In this chapter, the completion temperature an as well as kinetics of pyrolysis of all plant species were explored using global kinetic models. The characterization of pyrolysis products and the dependence of the kinetic parameters on conversion degree using iso-conversional methods for these plant species were studied in previous chapters. The main aim of this chapter is to present single kinetic parameters for whole pyrolysis process which can be in the favor of wildland fire modelers. The model fitting methods of simple one-step model, distributed activation energy model (DAEM) were used. The mass loss and derivative mass loss data were fitted simultaneously at three heating rates of 10, 20, and 30 °C min⁻¹ to find kinetic parameters.

Modified version w/comments

- In this chapter, the completion temperature as well as kinetics of pyrolysis of all plant species were explored using global kinetic models. The characterization of pyrolysis products and the dependence of the kinetic parameters on the degree of conversion using iso-conversional methods for these plant species were studied in previous chapters. The main aim of this chapter is to present single kinetic parameters for the entire pyrolysis process which can be of use to wildland fire modelers. The model forms explored here are the simple one-step model and the distributed activation energy model (DAEM). The mass loss and derivative mass loss chat were fitted simultaneously at three heating rates of 10, 20, and 30 °C min⁻¹ to find kinetic parameters for these model forms.
 What is the completion temperature? Take a little space to explain
- What is the completion temperature? Take a little space to explain.
- What if you omitted this first sentence? The paragraph would flow better.