

## ***Reducing Repetition***

**Look for words and structures that repeat. Make edits to reduce repetition and wordiness in general. Multiple variations are possible.**

### **Surprising News!**

1. Eight years represents a significant time investment. That is how long it took Richard Plaud of France to build the Eiffel Tower from matchsticks. In fact, Plaud used over 700,000 matchsticks. Plaud's replica of the Eiffel Tower, built only from matchsticks, stands over 23 feet. However, Plaud's Eiffel Tower replica initially failed to meet the standards set by Guinness World Records. Guinness World Records told Richard Plaud that his matches were not in fact standard matches with a sulfur tip that one can buy commercially. Plaud had bought a large shipment of matchsticks he thought were standard. Then in a dramatic reversal, Guinness World Records told Plaud that they would in fact award him the world record for a matchstick structure, so his replica of the Eiffel Tower won!

[Based on a Washington Post news article from February 17, 2024.](#)

2. True story! A three-year-old boy in Australia, climbed into a claw machine in pursuit of a toy. The claw machine was filled with colorful stuffed toys. The boy's climb into the claw machine took only seconds, and his unexpected appearance inside the claw machine was truly startling to his parents. The unfortunate truth is that this is not the first incident with a child trapped in a claw machine. However, this case has a truly happy ending. The three-year-old boy was safely rescued by the police, and one of his rescuers, a true hero, offered him a stuffed toy as a prize!

[Based on an AP News article from February 2, 2024.](#)

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3. Imagine winning the lottery only to find out later that you didn't actually win the lottery. This happened to a number of lottery players in Iowa. Due to human error, the wrong winning lottery numbers were posted. No one actually won the big jackpot of \$355 million, but before the correction was made to the winning numbers, anyone who brought their "winning" tickets in could claim their cash prize, which actually only ranged from \$4 to \$200. Within seven hours of posting the incorrect winning numbers, the correct winning numbers were posted. As it turns out, no one actually won with those numbers either! Just a small number of people received small winnings of \$4 to \$200.

[Based on an AP News article from November 29, 2023.](#)

4. What would possess a person to put pythons in their pants to get through border control? Obviously, it would be a person who knows that carrying pythons across the border would cause problems. What would those problems be? While pythons may not be venomous snakes, the snakes could pose a danger to humans. There are strict laws about what animals can be carried across a border and into another country. What would happen if a person broke such laws? In this case, the person who tried to carry pythons into the country by hiding the snakes in his pants now faces a one-year probation and a \$5,000 fine.

[Based on an AP News article from February 14, 2024.](#)

5. Since tennis matches are held outdoors, it is not uncommon for weather delays. However, a delay due to bees is quite unusual for a tennis match! Bees were indeed the reason for a recent delay at the BNP Paribas Open in California. It was a quarterfinal tennis match between Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev. Bees disrupted the play and the use of a camera on court. To avoid further delay, a man was brought in to vacuum the bees and spray the court. The delay lasted 19 minutes, but both Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev showed patience and humor. The fans were appreciative as well, cheering for the man who did the vacuuming and spraying, which put an end to the delay.

[Based on an AP News article from March 15, 2024.](#)

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### **Suggestions.**

#### **Surprising News!**

1. Eight years represents a significant time investment. That is how long it took Richard Plaud to build the Eiffel Tower. The Frenchman's replica of the famous landmark is built from over 700,000 matchstick and stands over 23 feet. However, the impressive construction initially failed to meet the standards set by Guinness World Records. Plaud was told that his matches lacked the usual sulfur tip found on the commercial type. He had bought a large shipment of matchsticks he thought were standard. Then in a dramatic reversal, Guinness told Plaud that they would in fact award him the world record for a matchstick structure, so his replica of the iconic tower won!

[Based on a Washington Post news article from February 17, 2024.](#)

2. A three-year-old boy in Australia, climbed into a claw machine filled with colorful stuffed toys. The boy's pursuit took only seconds, and his unexpected appearance among the plush toys startled his parents. Unfortunately, this is not the first incident with such machines. However, this case has a happy ending. The child was safely rescued by the police, and one officer, a true hero, offered a stuffed toy as a prize!

[Based on an AP News article from February 2, 2024.](#)

## ***Reducing Repetition***

3. Imagine winning the lottery only to find out later that you in fact lost. This happened to a number of players in Iowa. Due to human error, the wrong winning numbers were posted. No one got the big jackpot of \$355 million, but before the correction was made, whoever brought their “winning” tickets in could claim their cash prize, which only ranged from \$4 to \$200. It took seven hours to fix the mistake. As it turns out, no one won with the actual numbers either! Just a small number of people received small winnings of \$4 to \$200.

[Based on an AP News article from November 29, 2023.](#)

4. What would possess a person to put pythons in their pants to get through border control? Obviously, the person would know that transporting large reptiles internationally would cause problems. While pythons may not be venomous snakes, they could pose a danger to humans. Strict laws regulate what animals can be carried from one country to another. What happens when the laws are broken? In this case, the violator now faces a one-year probation and a \$5,000 fine.

[Based on an AP News article from February 14, 2024.](#)

5. Since tennis matches are held outdoors, it is not uncommon for the weather to interfere. However, a delay due to insects is quite unusual! Bees were the reason for a recent delay at a quarterfinal tennis match between Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev at the BNP Paribas Open in California. The unwelcomed visitors disrupted the play and the use of a camera on court. A specialist was brought in to vacuum and spray. The delay lasted 19 minutes, but both Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev showed patience and humor. The fans were appreciative as well, cheering for the man who came to the rescue so that the match could get underway again.

[Based on an AP News article from March 15, 2024.](#)