Common Redundancies
From Richard Nordquist,
Your Guide to Grammar & Composition.

One way to cut the clutter in our writing is to eliminate repetitious expressions. Because we so often see and hear redundancies (such as "free gifts" and "foreign imports"), they can be easy to overlook. Therefore, when editing our work, we need to be on the lookout for redundancies so that we can rewrite them more concisely.

Following are some of the common redundancies. In each case, we can eliminate the needless repetition by omitting the word or phrase in parentheses.

A
* (absolutely) essential
* (absolutely) necessary
* (actual) experience
* (actual) facts
* (advance) forward
* (advance) planning
* (advance) preview
* (advance) reservations
* (advance) warning
* add (an additional)
* add (up)
* (added) bonus
* (affirmative) yes
* (aid and) abet
* (all-time) record
* alternative (choice)
* A.M. or AM (in the morning)
* (and) etc.
* (anonymous) stranger
* (annual) anniversary
* (armed) gunman
* ascend (up)
* ask (the question)
* assemble (together)
* attach (together)
* ATM (machine)
* autobiography (of my life)
B

* bald(-headed)
* balsa (wood)
* (basic) fundamentals
* (basic) necessities
* best (ever)
* biography (of his--or her--life)
* bitter (in taste)
* blend (together)
* (boat) marina
* bouquet (of flowers)
* brief (in duration)
* (brief) moment
* (brief) summary
* burn (down)
* (burning) embers

C

* cacophony (of sound)
* cameo (appearance)
* cancel (out)
* (careful) scrutiny
* cash (money)
* cease (and desist)
* circle (around)
* circulate (around)
* classify (into groups)
* close (down)
* close (up)
* (close) proximity
* (closed) fist
* (co-equal) partners
* collaborate (together)
* combine (together)
* commute (back and forth)
* (completely) destroyed
* (completely) eliminate
* (completely) engulfed
* (completely) filled
* (completely) surround
* (component) parts
* (conclusive) proof
* connect (together)
* connect (up)
* confused (state)
* consensus (of opinion)
* (constantly) maintained
* could (possibly)
* crisis (situation)
* curative (process)
* (current) trend

D
* depreciate (in value)
* descend (down)
* (desirable) benefits
* (different) kinds
* disappear (from sight)
* drop (down)
* during (the course of)

E
* each (and every)
* earlier (in time)
* eliminate (altogether)
* emergency (situation)
* (empty) hole
* empty (out)
* (empty) space
* enclosed (herein)
* (end) result
* enter (in)
* (entirely) eliminate
* equal (to one another)
* eradicate (completely)
* estimated at (about)
* evolve (over time)
* (exact) replica
* (exact) same
* (exposed) opening
* extradite (back)
* (extreme) hazard

F
* (face) mask
* fall (down)
* (favorable) approval
* (fellow) classmates
* (fellow) colleague
* few (in number)
* filled (to capacity)
* (final) conclusion
* (final) end
* (final) outcome
* (first and) foremost
* (first) conceived
* first (of all)
* fly (through the air)
* follow (after)
* (foreign) imports
* (former) graduate
* (former) veteran
* (free) gift
* friend (of mine)
* (from) whence
* (frozen) ice
* (frozen) tundra
* full (to capacity)
* (full) satisfaction
* fuse (together)
* (future) plans
* (future) recurrence

G
* gather (together)
* (general) public
* GOP (party)
* GRE (exam)
* green [or blue or whatever] (in color)
* grow (in size)

H
* had done (previously)
* (harmful) injuries
* (head) honcho
* heat (up)
* HIV (virus)
* (hollow) tube
* hurry (up)
I
* (illustrated) drawing
* indicted (on a charge)
* input (into)
* integrate (together)
* integrate (with each other)
* interdependent (on each other)
* introduced (a new)
* introduced (for the first time)
* (invited) guests
* (ir)regardless
* ISBN (number)

J
* join (together)
* (joint) collaboration

K
* kills bugs (dead)
* kneel (down)
* (knowledgeable) experts

L
* lag (behind)
* later (time)
* LCD (display)
* lift (up)
* (little) baby
* (live) studio audience
* (live) witness
* (local) residents
* look (ahead) to the future
* look back (in retrospect)

M
* made (out) of
* (major) breakthrough
* (major) feat
* manually (by hand)
* may (possibly)
* meet (together)
* meet (with each other)
* (mental) telepathy
* merge (together)
* might (possibly)
* minestrone (soup)
* mix (together)
* modern ______ (of today)
* (mutual) cooperation
* (mutually) interdependent
* (number-one) leader in ________

N
* nape (of her neck)
* (native) habitat
* (natural) instinct
* never (before)
* (new) beginning
* (new) construction
* (new) innovation
* (new) invention
* (new) recruit
* none (at all)
* nostalgia (for the past)
* (now) pending

O
* off (of)
* (old) adage
* (old) cliche
* (old) custom
* (old) proverb
* (open) trench
* open (up)
* (oral) conversation
* (originally) created
* (original) source
* output (out of)
* (outside) in the yard
* (over) exaggerate
* (overused) cliché

P
* (pair of) twins
* palm (of the hand)
* (passing) fad
* (past) experience
* (past) history
* (past) memories
* (past) records
* penetrate (into)
* (perfect) circle
* period (of time)
* (personal) friend
* (personal) opinion
* pick (and choose)
* PIN (number)
* pizza (pie)
* plan (ahead)
* plan (in advance)
* (Please) RSVP
* plunge (down)
* (polar) opposites
* (positive) identification
* postpone (until later)
* pouring (down) rain
* (pre)board (as an airplane)
* (pre)heat
* (pre)record
* (private) industry
* (present) incumbent
* present (time)
* previously listed (above)
* proceed (ahead)
* (proposed) plan
* protest (against)
* pursue (after)

R

* RAM (memory)
* reason is (because)
* reason (why)
* recur (again)
* re-elect (for another term)
* refer (back)
* reflect (back)
* (regular) routine
* repeat (again)
* reply (back)
* retreat (back)
* revert (back)
* rise (up)
* round (in shape)

S
* (safe) haven
* (safe) sanctuary
* same (exact)
* (sand) dune
* scrutinize (in detail)
* self-______ (yourself)
* separated (apart from each other)
* (serious) danger
* share (together)
* (sharp) point
* shiny (in appearance)
* shut (down)
* (single) unit
* skipped (over)
* slow (speed)
* small (size)
* (small) speck
* soft (in texture) [or (to the touch)]
* sole (of the foot)
* spell out (in detail)
* spliced (together)
* start (off) or (out)
* (still) persists
* (still) remains
* (sudden) impulse
* (sum) total
* surrounded (on all sides)

T
* tall (in height)
* tall (in stature)
* (temper) tantrum
* ten (in number)
* three a.m., three A.M., three AM (in the morning)
* (three-way) love triangle
* time (period)
* (tiny) bit
* (total) destruction
* (true) facts
* (truly) sincere
* tuna (fish)
* (twelve) noon or midnight
* (two equal) halves

U
* (ultimate) goal
* undergraduate (student)
* (underground) subway
* (unexpected) emergency
* (unexpected) surprise
* (unintentional) mistake
* (unnamed) anonymous
* UPC (code)
* (usual) custom

V
* vacillating (back and forth)
* (veiled) ambush
* (very) pregnant
* (very) unique
* visible (to the eye)

W
* (wall) mural
* warn (in advance)
* weather (conditions)
* weather (situation)
* whether (or not)
* (white) snow
* write (down)