Wordiness

"The best English is that which gives the sense in the fewest words."

EXERCISE 1: Look at the sentences below and identify instances of overwriting.

Deleting repeated words
1. The childhood disease chicken pox occasionally leads to dangerous complications, such as the disease known as Reye's Syndrome.

Unnecessary words and long noun phrases where verbs will do
2. After a short flashback into the history of the women's emancipation movement, I will give a description of the latest developments in legislation in order to bring the reader up to date.

Eliminating passive structures (active voice more concise)
3. "Buy British" rallies are being organised by concerned British who hope jobs can be saved by such gatherings. It is known that this system has limitations.

Wordy expressions
4. Let us emphasise that this process occurs due to the fact that the wave assumption may not be valid for plane shelves.

Long words
5. The author needs to recapitulate on the main points of his argument.

Beginning a sentence with There is or There have been.
6. There were many animals slaughtered due to the BSE crisis in England last year.

Sometimes it is a question of not knowing the right word in English.
7. Recent investigations, mainly in Israel and England, seem to come up with different ideas…
EXERCISE 2: Edit overwriting from the following expressions.

1. the most salient characteristic     5. official birth certificate
2. to be completely surrounded            6. In actual fact
3. in the vicinity of the lake            7. a very important development
4. people are totally alienated from the church   8. all over the world