



- A: Are you going to reach the top today?  
 B: I hope to.  
 A: Do you feel tired?  
 B: Exhausted!  
 A: Maybe you should have climbed in better weather.  
 B: Well, I didn't!

## Presentation

There are two main ways to avoid repeating words or phrases. These are **substitution** (replacing one word or phrase with another) and **ellipsis** (omitting something completely).

### Substituting lexis

Use synonyms to avoid repetition of lexis:

*All the climbers were **tired**. Even their leader felt **exhausted**.*

*The packs were **heavy** and with the rain on the backs they felt especially **weighty**.*

### Substituting nouns

Use pronouns to refer back to previous nouns:

*It was a dangerous **idea**, but no one had an alternative **one**.*

If two nouns are mentioned, we use *the former* to refer back to the first one and *the latter* to refer to the second:

*The two choices open to us are walking or taking a bus: **the former** is more healthy, but it'll take longer than **the latter**.*

### Substituting verbs and verb phrases

Use the auxiliary of a verb phrase to avoid repeating verbs or verb phrases:

*We love **being active at weekends**, but our children **don't**.  
 I **didn't like history at school**, but I **do now**.*

We can use the expression *do so* to replace a verb phrase:

*They'd love to **take a year off work and travel**, but to **do so** wouldn't be practical.*

When we respond to another person's comment, we can use a different auxiliary:

*'We'd like to take a year off work and travel.' 'Well, you **should**.'*

*'You should have taken the other job.' 'Well, I **didn't**.'*

When there is more than one auxiliary, we can use one or more auxiliary when we respond:

*'It would have been a good idea to book a taxi.' 'Yes, it **would** / **would have** / **would have been**.'*

### Substituting clauses

Substitute an entire clause with *that*, *so* or *not*:

*'Do you think all your students will pass their exam?' 'Yes, I **hope so**.'*

*'It'll be hard to find a hotel because there's a conference that week.' 'I **didn't know that**.'*

*'Are they going to be late?' 'I **hope not**.'*

### Ellipsis

Ellipsis means omitting words completely. Use *to* instead of repeating a complete infinitive phrase:

*'Will you meet Giles while you're in Paris?' 'Yes, I **hope to**.'* (= I hope to meet him.)

**1 Complete the gaps in part of a story. Choose the correct substitution word to avoid repeating words or phrases from A–D.**

The sun was setting and as Raul and Tito arrived at the fork in the road <sup>1</sup> ..... was about to disappear altogether. One road seemed to lead downhill, but the track was uneven. The <sup>2</sup> ..... looked recently repaired, but went upwards. The former would be harder to walk on, but the <sup>3</sup> ..... would send them back into the mountains.

'I'd love to go downhill, but to <sup>4</sup> ..... so means walking on that,' said Raul, pointing to the <sup>5</sup> ..... ground on the left.

Tito shouted furiously, 'You should have brought the map!'

'Well, I <sup>6</sup> .....'

The two stood silently as the sun <sup>7</sup> ..... behind the hill and the sky started to get dark.

'Do you have a torch?' Raul asked.

'No, I <sup>8</sup> .....', Tito replied. 'It would have been a good idea to have brought one.'

'Yes, it <sup>9</sup> .....', Raul replied, but without any anger

'Let's try to put up the tent and wait until morning. Maybe someone will drive past and give us directions.'

'I hope <sup>10</sup> .....'

- |             |          |            |             |                |               |          |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| 1 A the sun | B it     | C there    | D the track | 6 A shouldn't  | B wouldn't    | C didn't | D don't    |
| 2 A other   | B road   | C one      | D track     | 7 A set        | B disappeared | C rose   | D vanished |
| 3 A last    | B left   | C road     | D latter    | 8 A don't have | B don't       | C have   | D –        |
| 4 A go      | B walk   | C do       | D be        | 9 A should     | B don't       | C was    | D would    |
| 5 A uneven  | B smooth | C repaired | D rough     | 10 A not       | B –           | C so     | D to       |

**2 Match the correct responses (a–f) to the sentences (1–6).**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 Do you plan to see Buckingham Palace while you're in London .....            | a I hope not!             |
| 2 Will you have to pay a lot extra to get your phone fixed? .....              | b No, I didn't know that. |
| 3 It would have been a good idea to let Sally know where we were meeting. .... | c Yes, I hope to.         |
| 4 It's always been my dream to try parachuting. ....                           | d Yes, it would have.     |
| 5 Were you aware they'd postponed the meeting? .....                           | e Yes, I think so.        |
| 6 Are your friends meeting us here? .....                                      | f Well, you should.       |

**3 Replace the bold words with substitution words such as a synonym, a pronoun or a verb phrase.**

- The climb up the mountain was difficult. The bad weather also made it even more **difficult**.  
.....
- Peter had a suggestion. It wasn't ideal, but no one else had a better **suggestion**.  
.....
- None of us liked the food at the restaurant and people on the other tables **didn't like the food** either.  
.....
- We'd like to buy a brand new car, but to **buy a brand new car** would be too expensive. ....