

# 100 Ways to avoid repeating words



Before the invention of powerful computers, **musicians had to play** their own instruments. Now **they don't need to**.

## 1 Replacing nouns and verbs

Replacing one word or phrase with another is very common in written and spoken English: *It didn't take long for Rossini to compose 'The Barber of Seville'. He composed 'The Barber of Seville' in thirteen days.*

→ *It didn't take long for Rossini to compose 'The Barber of Seville'. He **did it** in thirteen days.*

Replacing a noun/noun phrase:

pronoun	<i>My husband loves <b>jazz</b> but I hate <b>it</b>. (it = jazz)</i> <i>Janis Joplin died in 1970. <b>She</b> was only twenty-seven. (She = Janis Joplin)</i>
one(s)/some (► Units 8/10)	<i>David bought a large <b>ice cream</b> and I got a small <b>one</b>. (one = ice cream)</i> <i>There are ten <b>tracks</b> on the album. <b>Some</b> are very short. (some = tracks)</i>
this/that/those (► Unit 5)	<i>The best <b>songs</b> are <b>those</b> she recorded early in her career. (those = the songs)</i>
a word with the same meaning	<i>Mozart wrote several <b>operas</b>. Some of the early <b>works</b> are rarely performed these days. (works = operas)</i>

Replacing a verb/verb phrase:

present simple verb → do	<i>He <b>likes</b> the same music as I <b>do</b>. (do = like)</i>
past simple verb → did	<i>They <b>didn't go</b> but I <b>did</b>. (did = went)</i>
do/did it for a single action	<i>It <b>didn't take long</b> for Rossini to compose 'The Barber of Seville'. He <b>did it</b> in thirteen days. (did it = composed 'The Barber of Seville')</i>
(not) do/did that	<i>They asked me to go on holiday with them but I <b>didn't want to do that</b>. (do that = go on holiday with them)</i>
an object pronoun after comparisons (► Unit 21.2)	<i>Blur had several hits. But Oasis were much more popular than <b>them</b>. (them = Blur.)</i>

## 2 Leaving out a word or phrase

- We can usually leave out the same subject and/or (auxiliary) verb in clauses after *and*:  
*Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote 'Cats' and (he wrote) 'Phantom of the Opera'.*  
*I bought the first album and Caroline (bought) the second one.*  
*We were watching TV and (we were) eating popcorn.*  
*We often take the children to the cinema and (we often take them to) the theatre.*
- We don't have to repeat the same verb phrase after an auxiliary or modal verb:  
*Our neighbours **might** get satellite TV. We **might** (get satellite TV), too.*  
*I play the violin but my brother **doesn't** (play the violin).*
- We don't have to repeat the infinitive after *to*:  
*Before the invention of powerful computers, musicians **had to play their own instruments**. Now they don't need **to** (play their own instruments).*  
*I wanted **to get tickets** for the concert but I wasn't able **to** (get tickets for the concert).*
- After reporting verbs which take the infinitive with *to* (e.g. *ask, forget, promise, refuse*) we can also leave out *to*:  
*They asked him to produce another album but he **refused** (to produce another album).*  
*I meant to record that programme but I **forgot** (to record that programme).*