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The **army** + **used** + **branches** to approach the castle.

The new sentence takes on the stronger form of **Subject + Verb + Direct Object**. Oftentimes the nominalization will be followed by an empty verb—a verb form of *to be*—or preceded by *there is/there are*. Replacing the nominalization with an action verb will cause the empty verb to disappear. As a writer, you can safely eliminate *There is* and *There are* from your vocabulary without losing a night's sleep.

Original: There was the **reluctance** by Macbeth to kill Duncan which caused Lady Macbeth to begin berating and shaming her husband.

Rewritten: Since Macbeth was **reluctant** to kill Duncan, Lady Macbeth began to berate and shame her husband.

Exercises

On a sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences by eliminating the **nominalizations**.

1. The **appearance** of the ghost was frightening to the three watchmen.
2. The **description** of the ghost to Hamlet was made by his friends.
3. The **decision** by Hamlet to keep watch for the ghost himself was after he heard the **explanation** of his friends.
4. The **recommendation** of Claudius concerning the well-being of Hamlet was to have a **visitation** by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to the young man.
5. The **assurance** of Hamlet to his friends was based on his mere **pretension** of madness.
6. Hamlet did not believe the story about his father's death, but believed the **usurpation** of the throne by Claudius could not be proved.
7. Hamlet tells Ophelia that he has a **disagreement** with marriage and that her best course is **abandonment** of the world in favor of a nun's life.
8. The **performance** of the actors of "The Murder of Gonzago" disturbed Claudius, and this was the **establishment** of guilt to Hamlet's thinking.
9. When Hamlet holds a **conversation** with the ghost, the **reaction** of Gertrude was with alarm.
10. As he talked with the grave-digger, Hamlet had a long, careful **observation** of the skull of Yorick.

Improving Your Writing

Refer to your Paper #1. Find any nominalizations in your thesis statement, topic sentences, and support sentences. Rewrite the nominalizations as verbs and supply a subject that is doing the acting.