MISUSE OF WORDS IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING: JARGON AND CIRCUMLOCUTIONS

**Avoid** | **Better**
---|---
fact | evidence
prove | support
former and latter | avoid; tends to make reader backtrack
plays an important role | influences, affects, is related to
due to the fact that | because
accounted by the fact that | in light of the fact that
on account of | on account of
as a result of | because
a considerable / decreased amount of | much / less
a considerable / decreased number of | many / fewer
a great deal of | much
a majority of | most (when feasible, state quantitatively instead)
a number of | many, some
a small number of | A few
adjacent to | next to, near
at present | now
at this point in time | now
time period | time, interval
longer time period | longer
brown in color | brown
larger in size | larger
round in shape | round
has been shown to be | Is
could possibly | may
demonstrate | show
exhibit | exhibit
perform | do
utilize | use
in case | if
in this case | here
in most cases | usually
in all cases | always
it is…
…clear that
…evident that
…apparent that
…of interest to note that
…often the case that
…suggested that

Eliminate, or reword to eliminate the construction “it is”. It signals that a weak sentence is about to follow.

in other words
it would thus appear that
it may seem reasonable to suppose that
there is reason to believe

thus/hence/therefore (or restate original sentence so it doesn’t need other words)
thus/hence/therefore

we suggest that / eliminate

subsequent to
on the basis of
on a daily basis
so as to
with the exception of
adverbs
very unique, very rare
in this experiment/study,
in the course of this experiment
it is interesting to note that
interestingly
needless to say
note that,
“it should be noted that,
“it is worth pointing out

after
by
daily
to
Except
usually eliminate
unique, rare
eliminate
eliminate
eliminate
eliminate

novel
quite
A bit
significant
insignificant
less vs. fewer

eliminate
eliminate
eliminate

use only in statistical context
when referring to statistics, the correct term is “nonsignificant”
less refers to a collective noun (less time"")
fewer refers to multiple items (“fewer copulations”)