

TAUTOLOGY

Tautology is **saying the same thing twice** but using different words. It is considered incorrect in formal writing, so it is important that you learn what it is so that you can avoid it.



In the following paragraph, identify (by underlining or circling) all the examples of tautology.

As I drove through the dry desert, my heart grew more and more despondent. I knew I should have never left, but I was tired: tired of the lies, the drama, the relentless bargaining. I could still hear her loud screaming in my head and my hand trembled on the steering wheel.

It was getting late, and I knew I should rest. I saw some dilapidated ruins which broke the monotony of the sandy landscape, and so I pulled over to watch the evening sunset. I closed my eyes and for the first time it hit me that I was totally and completely alone. My first priority had always been her. But no longer. It was time I put myself first and took hold of my own life. First and foremost I needed to get away from her and her toxic influence.

I stepped out of the car hoping to get some fresh breath in my lungs, but instead I was greeted by a wall of hot, stale air. However, I was keenly aware of the fact that I needed to stretch my legs and so I locked the car securely and wondered over to the crumbling monument. It was then that I realized that I wasn't *completely* alone. There was a small child sitting alone on the stones with nobody with her. Carefully, I personally picked my way over to where she was sitting in close proximity to the plaque which divulged what this place had once been. I made a mental note in my mind to check it out later.

I coughed loudly as I approached her so as to announce my arrival; I didn't wish to frighten her. Yet she didn't even flinch. When I was close enough, I introduced myself, but again she didn't move; she carried on remaining still, as though she were made of stone: a part of the ruins themselves.

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ANSWERS

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