

Collection 14: The Perilous Journey

Revising Sentences: Avoiding Wordiness

Read the following sentences. Which one is easier to read?

An epic poem is a very long narrative in verse that exemplifies the values of a civilization and the people of that civilization by looking at its heroes and their adventures in strange lands with strange inhabitants.

An epic poem is a long verse narrative that demonstrates the values of a civilization through a story of its heroes and their adventures in unfamiliar settings.

The first sentence above is wordy and hard to follow. The second sentence, however, has the same meaning clearly expressed, using fewer words. A good writer uses only necessary words to communicate with the reader. The following chart contains some guidelines to help avoid wordiness in your writing.

Guidelines to Avoid Wordiness

Don't use more words than you need.	
WORDY:	Odysseus was the great Greek warrior who fought in the Trojan War and was a king.
REVISED:	Odysseus, a Greek warrior-king, fought in the Trojan War.
Don't use difficult words and phrases when simple ones can say the same thing.	
Difficult	Simple
to circumvent	to circle
in the final analysis	in summary
at the current time	now
due to circumstances	because
Don't repeat words or ideas unless you have a good reason for doing so.	
WORDY:	The men called Lotus Eaters were men who had no desire to and didn't want to harm the sailors.
REVISED:	The men called Lotus Eaters had no desire to harm the sailors.

EXERCISE Revising to Avoid Wordiness

Each of the following sentences is wordy. Rewrite each sentence on the lines provided, omitting any unnecessary words and phrases.

EXAMPLE: The style of the epic used by Homer was later imitated in other works, for example, in the *Aeneid* by Virgil and *The Divine Comedy* by Dante.

Homer's epic style was imitated later in works such as Virgil's Aeneid and

Dante's The Divine Comedy.

- Odysseus was quite different from many of the other Greek heroes because he felt melancholy and disillusioned when faced with so many difficult choices.

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

2. Telemachus, who was the son of Penelope and Odysseus, hardly remembered his father, Odysseus.

3. It was Odysseus who was credited with the idea of the use of a wooden horse to invade Troy.

4. Circe was a witch who lived on an island named Aeaea.

5. Zeus was able to cause a very ferocious storm that brought darkness on the sea and darkness on the land.

6. The Cyclops who was Poseidon's one-eyed son was the Cyclops named Polyphemus.

7. In order to trick the Cyclops, Odysseus told the monster that the adventurers' ship had been tossed onto the rocks by a great wind.

8. Odysseus took his sword from its scabbard, drawing the blade from its sheath, when the Cyclops fell asleep.

9. Odysseus did not kill the Cyclops because he knew that his men were not able to move the huge, enormous stone blocking the doorway.

10. Each of Odysseus' adventures in this group of adventures was an adventure about courage.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

The following cast of characters includes some of those who take part in the sections of the *Odyssey* included in this book. Note that the Greeks in the *Odyssey* are often referred to as **Achaeans** (ə·kē'anz) or **Argives** (är'gīvz'). *Achaeans* is the most general term, which also includes the people in Ithaca, the island off the west coast of Greece where Odysseus ruled. The word *Achaeans* is taken from the name of an ancient part of northeastern Greece called Achaea. The name *Argives* usually refers to the Greeks who went to fight at Troy.

THE WANDERINGS: CHARACTERS AND PLACES

Aeaea (ē·ē'ə): home of Circe, the witch-goddess.

Alcinous (al·sin'ō·əs): king of Phaeacia. Odysseus tells the story of his adventures to Alcinous' court.

Calypso (kə·lip'sō): beautiful goddess-nymph who keeps Odysseus on her island for seven years.

Charybdis (kə·rib'dis): female monster who sucks in water three times a day to form a deadly whirlpool (thought to be a real whirlpool in the Strait of Messina).

Cicones (si·kō'nēz): people living on the southwestern coast of Thrace, who battled Odysseus and his men on their journey home.

Circe (sur'sē): witch-goddess who turns Odysseus' men into swine.

Cyclops: See **Polyphemus**, below.

Erebus (er'ə·bəs): dark area of the underworld where the dead reside.

Eurylochus (yū·ril'ə·kəs): one of Odysseus' loyal crew.

Lotus Eaters: people who feed Odysseus' men with lotus plants to make them forget Ithaca.

Phaeacia (fē·ā'shə): island kingdom ruled by King Alcinous. The Phaeacians are shipbuilders and traders.

Polyphemus (pāl'i·fē'məs): the **Cyclops** (sī'kläps') blinded by Odysseus; the son of the sea god Poseidon. **Cyclopes** (sī·klō'pēz') are a race of brutish one-eyed giants who live solitary lives as shepherds, supposedly on the island now known as Sicily.

Scylla (sil'ə): female monster with six serpent heads, each head having a triple row of fangs (thought to be a dangerous rock in the Strait of Messina).



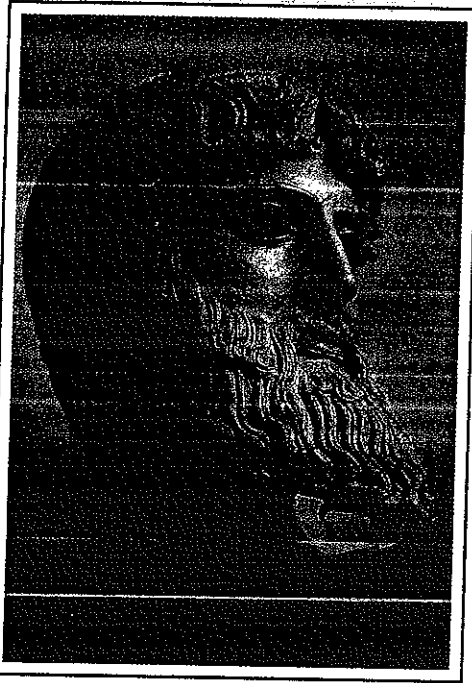
Penelope (detail) (1864) by John Roddam Spencer-Stanhope.

The De Morgan Foundation, London.



Circe hands the magic potion to Odysseus (5th century B.C.). Detail from a lekythos, a vase used for oils and ointments.

National Archaeological Museum, Athens.



Athens Museum.

Poseidon (5th century B.C.).
Bronze.



Acropolis Museum, Athens.

Athena mourning the death of Achilles at Troy. From a marble stele, or pillar.

Sirens: sea nymphs whose beautiful and mysterious music lures sailors to steer their ships toward the rocks.

Teiresias (tī·rē'sē·əs): famous blind prophet from the city of Thebes. Odysseus meets him in the Land of the Dead.

Thrinakia (thri·nā'kē·ə): island where the sun god Helios keeps his cattle.

ITHACA: THE PEOPLE AT HOME

Antinous (an·tin'ō·əs): one of Penelope's leading suitors; an arrogant and mean young noble from Ithaca.

Eumaeus (yōō·mē'əs): swineherd, one of Odysseus' loyal servants.

Eurycleia (yōō·ri·klī'yə): Odysseus' old nurse.

Eurymachus (yōō·rim'ə·kəs): suitor of Penelope.

Eurynome (yōō·rin'ə·mē): Penelope's housekeeper.

Penelope (pə·nel'ə·pē): Odysseus' faithful wife.

Philoetius (fi·loi'tē·əs): cowherd, one of Odysseus' loyal servants.

Telemachus (tə·lem'ə·kəs): Odysseus' son.

THE GODS

Apollo (ə·pāl'ō): god of poetry, music, prophecy, medicine, and archery.

Athena (ə·thē'nə): favorite daughter of Zeus; the great goddess of wisdom and the arts of war and peace. She favored the Greeks during the Trojan War. She is often called Pallas Athena.

Cronus (krō'nəs): Titan (giant god) who ruled the universe until his son Zeus overthrew him.

Helios (hē'lē·əs'): sun god.

Hephaestus (hē·fes'təs): god of metalworking.

Hermes (hər'mēz'): messenger god.

Poseidon (pō·si'dən): god of the sea; brother of Zeus.

Called Earth Shaker because he is believed to cause earthquakes. Poseidon is an enemy of Odysseus.

Zeus (zyōōs): the most powerful god, whose home is on Olympus.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING

The Odyssey, Part One: The Wanderings

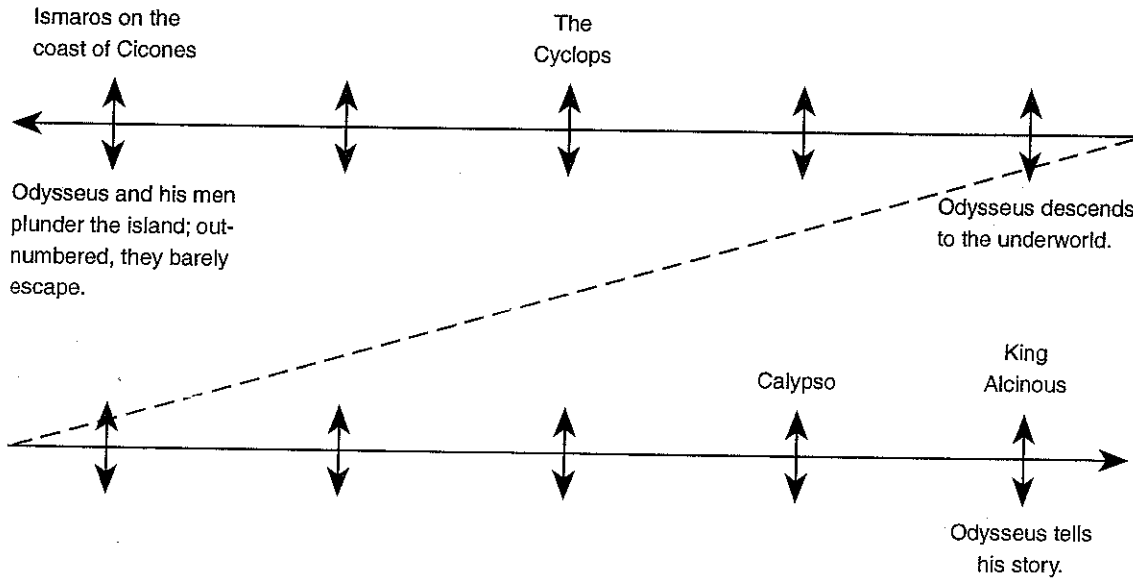
Homer

translated by Robert Fitzgerald

Pupil's Edition page 888

Heroes at Large

One way to track the adventures in *The Odyssey* is to record them on a time line—a graph that records events in chronological order. On the time line below, record Odysseus' ten-year adventure, from the time he leaves Troy until he begins recounting his saga in Alcinous' court. Above the line, record the places Odysseus goes or the monsters or people he encounters. Below the line, briefly record what happens during the encounters. Several events have been recorded as examples. Complete the rest of the time line as you read "Part One: The Wanderings."



1. Suppose a toy company wants to make Odysseus its next superhero action figure. Which of Odysseus' character traits would you advise the company to emphasize?

2. What qualities does Odysseus have that make him seem more human than heroic?

put
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Notes from My Reading:

- It sounds as if Calypso likes Odysseus.
- Zeus - Lord of the clouds
- Nine days drifted in the sea that could have taken him safely back home
- Ilium is another name for Troy
- He gives up immortality with Calypso to be with Penelope and his home.
- stayed with Calypso for 7 years

Notes from Class Discussion:

- When Hermes told Calypso to let Odysseus go, she lied to Odysseus by telling him it was her idea to let go.
- Calypso created some magical power and Odysseus was not unwilling to stay there.
- Polydorus is father of Cyclops - Odysseus killed Cyclops. That is why Polydorus hates Odysseus.
- The reason why Odysseus wants to leave at the end is because he missed Penelope and his home Ulyssa.

SAMPLE

Section: I am Laertes' son

Page: 895

Notes from My Reading:

- Why did the ancient people of Greece and Asia minor believe all quest were god sent?
- Why did the men feast on sheep and cattle when Odysseus told them not to?
- Why did the remaining men have to raise a cry, 3 times, for each poor ghost?
- After 2 days when the sun was shining Odysseus could have made it home safely but the current took him off to sea. - drifted for nine days. does not die.

Notes from Class Discussion:

- Circe - The 3 cries for the each men that died were a funeral for the men.
- Odysseus drifts for nine days and finds himself on the coastline where the Lotus eaters live.
- It was a religious thing they followed: they had to welcome the guest into the house and treat them with respect and hospitality.
- Zeus sends a thunder bolt + killing
- The men ate the sheep and cattle even though they belonged to the sky god - Helios.

From Alpha to Omega *(cont.)*

Historical Background Information

The Greek language became the chief language used throughout ancient Greece. Although the spoken language has changed over the years, the printed alphabet has remained very similar to the ancient language. Many of the words, prefixes, and suffixes used today in English are borrowed from the Greeks. Dictionaries tell what the origin of a given word is. Gymnasium is an example of a Greek word that is still used today. Other words that originated in Greece that are still used today include: lyre, abacus, mosaic, stylus, and marathon.

Aristocracy, geography, and anthropology are examples of English words that have come from the ancient Greek. By studying the roots, or parts, of a word you can often figure out its meaning. For example, *demos* means people and *cracy* means rule. Thus, *democracy*, or democracy, is rule by the people. The Greeks had a considerable influence on the English language. Studying this influence will certainly improve one's vocabulary by providing clues to word meanings.

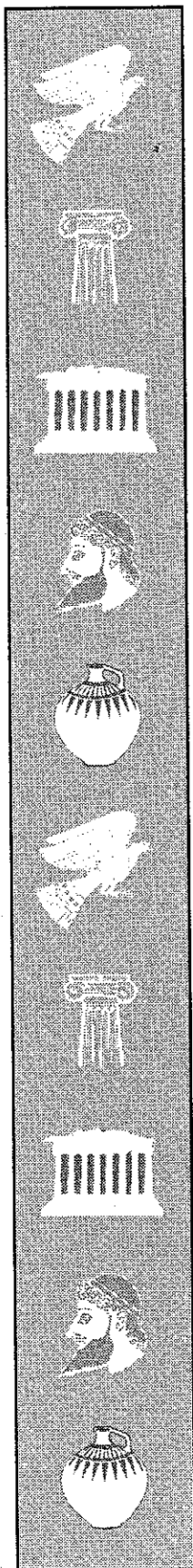
The word "alphabet" comes from the names of the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: *alpha* and *beta*. There is some similarity between the modern English alphabetical system and the ancient Greek alphabet. Greek letters were written with mostly straight lines. This is because the writing was done on tablets made of wax using a *stylus*, a pointed, pencil-like tool, to scratch into the wax. Sometime before 800 B.C., the Greeks borrowed and adapted their alphabet to create the 24-letters, complete with consonants and vowels.

Education in Greece was much different than it is today. Schooling was not mandatory, and only boys were formally educated if a family could afford a private school. A boy usually went to school at the age of seven. Boys from wealthy homes who were enrolled in a private school would learn to read, write, count, recite poetry, and play the lyre, a stringed instrument. At school, Greek students learned to write on wooden tablets coated with wax. Children from poorer families who could not afford education would stay home and learn a trade by helping their parents on their farms.

A boy growing up in Greece would be encouraged and taught to keep physically fit. Health and endurance was especially important to the Spartans, who saw discipline and obedience as a main objective to becoming an excellent soldier.

Boys in Athens had to learn a trade. Older boys would apprentice, or spend time to learn with someone accomplished in a trade. Some boys would travel with teachers called sophists.

Girls did not usually go to school. They stayed at home and learned skills from their mothers. They learned how to spin and weave. Girls from wealthy families learned to read and write from private tutors or from their mothers, if they were fortunate to have mothers who had learned these basic skills.



Greek Roots



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Greek Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

The following table lists some common Greek roots.

Greek root	Basic meaning	Example words
-anthrop-	human	misanthrope, philanthropy, anthropomorphic
-chron-	time	anachronism, chronic, chronicle, synchronize, chronometer
-dem-	people	democracy, demography, demagogue, endemic, pandemic
-morph-	form	amorphous, metamorphic, morphology
-path-	feeling, suffering	empathy, sympathy, apathy, apathetic, psychopathic
-pedo-, -ped-	child, children	pediatrician, pedagogue
-philo-, -phil-	having a strong affinity or love for	philanthropy, philharmonic, philosophy
-phon-	sound	polyphonic, cacophony, phonetics

The following table gives a list of Greek prefixes and their basic meanings.

Greek prefix	Basic meaning	Example words
a-, an-	without	achromatic, amoral, atypical, anaerobic
anti-, ant-	opposite; opposing	anticrime, antipollution, antacid
auto-	self, same	autobiography, automatic, autopilot
bio-, bi-	life, living organism	biology, biophysics, biotechnology, biopsy
geo-	Earth; geography	geography, geomagnetism, geophysics, geopolitics
hyper-	excessive,	hyperactive, hypercritical,

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neo-	new, recent	neonatal, neophyte, neoconservatism, neofascism, neodymium
pan-	all	panorama, panchromatic, pandemic, pantheism
thermo-, therm-	heat	thermal, thermometer, thermostat

Words and word roots may also combine with suffixes. Here are examples of some important English suffixes that come from Greek:

Greek suffix	Basic meaning	Example words
-ism	forms nouns and means "the act, state, or theory of"	criticism, optimism, capitalism
-ist	forms agent nouns from verbs ending in -ize or nouns ending in -ism and is used like -er	conformist, copyist, cyclist
-ize	forms verbs from nouns and adjectives	formalize, jeopardize, legalize, modernize, emphasize, hospitalize, industrialize, computerize
-gram	something written or drawn, a record	cardiogram, telegram
-graph	something written or drawn; an instrument for writing, drawing, or recording	monograph, phonograph, seismograph
-logue, -log	speech, discourse; to speak	monologue, dialogue, travelogue
-logy	discourse, expression; science, theory, study	phraseology, biology, dermatology
-meter, -metry	measuring device; measure	spectrometer, geometry, kilometer, parameter, perimeter
-oid	forms adjectives and nouns and means "like, resembling" or "shape, form"	humanoid, spheroid, trapezoid
-phile	one that loves or has a strong affinity for; loving	audiophile, Francophile
-phobe, -phobia	one that fears a specified thing; an intense fear of a specified thing	agoraphobe, agoraphobia, xenophobe, xenophobia
-phone	sound; device that receives or emits sound; speaker of a language	homophone, geophone, telephone, Francophone

CHAPTER 6

Graphic Organizer Activity

Greece's Golden and Hellenistic Ages

Greek Arts

Greek art and architecture had a lasting influence on Western culture. Complete the graphic organizer with information you find about Greek art.

What was the Parthenon?			
Where is most Greek painting found today?	Who was Praxiteles?	How did Greek art glorify the human being?	How did Greek art show pride in Greece's city-states?
What was the Acropolis? Where was it located?			

Let's Have Order (cont.)

Historical Background Information

The ancient Greeks built simple, mud-brick homes for themselves. Their homes were very simple when compared to the elaborate temples that they built to honor their gods. Ancient Greeks believed that their gods would enjoy Greek temples whenever they were away from their own home on Mount Olympus. These temples were made to be durable and attractive, and they became more ornate as time passed.

The Greeks developed three architectural orders: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Each had its own distinctive look and unique qualities. These orders are most easily recognized by looking at the three types of columns found in Greek temples and other public buildings. The basic difference between them lies in their proportions.

The Doric style is sturdy and its top (the capital) is very simple. These columns are usually short and thick. This style was mainly used in mainland Greece and the colonies in southern Italy and Sicily. The Parthenon is an excellent example of the Doric order because the columns around the perimeter of the temple are Doric.

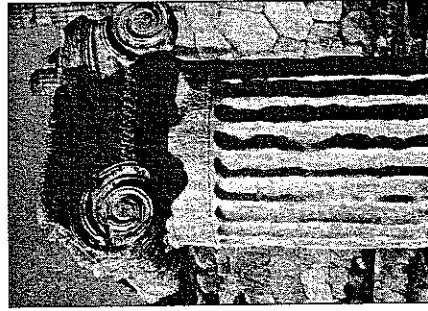
The Ionic style is thinner and more elegant than the Doric columns. Its capital is decorated with a scroll-like design, or a *volute*. This style is mostly found in eastern Greece and the islands. In modern architecture, the home to the United States President, the White House, is a good example of the Ionic style.

The Corinthian style's capital is very elaborate and decorated with acanthus leaves. The Corinthian column is the most ornate column used in Greek architecture. It was also the last of the three columns to be designed. It was not fully developed until the middle of the fourth century. The Greeks made limited use of this order. Today, the United States Capitol building is an example of this style of architecture.

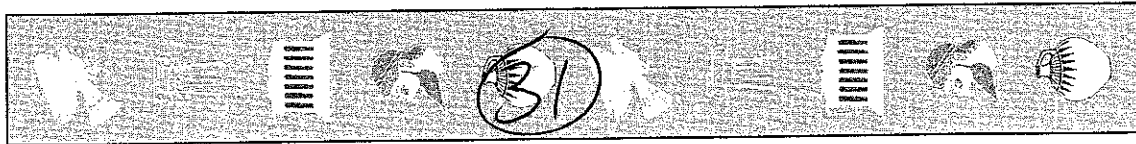
Columns surrounding the temples were of these various styles. Their purpose was practical because they held up the top of the structure, but they were also ornamental and made the temples beautiful and pleasing to the gods. Sometimes a mixture of styles were used. Many ruins of Greek temples have survived over time, and these ruins have revealed much about Greek architecture.



Doric Column (Corel)



Ionic Column
(Jim Steinhart of www.PlanerWare.com)



Name _____

A Tall Order

Background Information

The Greeks developed three architectural orders: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Each had its own distinctive look and unique qualities. These orders were found in the three types of columns of Greek temples and other public buildings. The basic difference between them lies in their proportions. The Doric column is thick and short, while the Ionic columns are tall and slim. The orders may also be distinguished easily by their capitals, or the tops of the columns. The Doric column has the simplest design, and the Ionic has some curls called *volutes*. The Corinthian capital is very elaborate and decorated with acanthus leaves. The Corinthian column is the most ornate order of Greek architecture.

Activity

1. Use the photographs on page 34 to compare the different architectures.

2. Re-create the table below on another sheet of paper. Then, go on a hunt to see how many modern examples of each column style you can find.

Style	Modern Buildings
Doric	
Ionic	
Corinthian	

Challenge

Design your own Greek building. You can have any combination of architectural designs that you'd like on the building. Make it something that will be remembered!