

Revising Word Problems to Reduce Linguistic Complexity

	Original	Revised
Replace unfamiliar words	smock, purchase	coat, paid
Use active verbs rather than passive	A sample was selected	he selected
Reduce complex compound phrases	The fisherman on the boat from Alaska	the man
Replace conditional clauses	If two were found	he found two
Revise complex question structures	At which of the following times...	when?
Make abstractions more concrete	The weights of 3 objects...	the weight of 3 books
Add second language words	party	fiesta
Replace names	Maria	she, a girl, the woman

Original Question:

The speed of light in a vacuum is 299,792,458 meters per second. Which number, written in scientific notation, is the best approximation of the speed of light?

Revised Question:

What is the best approximation of 299,792,458 written in scientific notation?