

“Pet” Words & Phrases

Words and Phrases Writers Overuse

a little	merely	basically
see/sees/seen/saw	always	real
can't help but	matter	end up
was/were/wasn't/weren't	particularly	especially
will/won't	never	hardly
be/been/being	completely	off of
just	practically	: (colon use in dialogue)
get/gets/got/getting/gotten	almost	at least
up	extremely	there was
but/so/and at the beginning of sentences	a bit	; (semi-colon in dialogue)
solely	rather	mostly
down	totally	it is
do/does/doing	really	because
that	quite	felt
only	thoroughly	seemed
begin/beginning/began to	kind of	use to (s/b used to)
is all	very	off of
simply	absolutely	ever
start to	barely	come up with
though	somewhat	even

anyway	had
by the way	it (clarify)
however	put, puts, putting
perhaps	is/isn't/ain't
at the very least	come/came/coming
suddenly	
in spite of	
the fact that	AND:
although	Any particular "pet" words or phrases for your current WIP. These pet words may change from manuscript to manuscript, so you may not catch them right away. They usually involve phrases to do with your character – does your character tuck her hair behind her ear, or does he stroke his chin? These are two examples of hundreds you'll want to watch for as repetitious phrasing when you re-read your story.
all of a sudden	
if nothing else	
already	
try/tried/tries/trying to	
a matter of fact	
you know	
all the while	
I guess	Reading your story aloud will help you find them.
take a look	
truly	
suppose	
fairly	
besides	
awhile	
actually	