

'Verbal tics' – oft-repeated words which make your writing sound, well, repetitive

again	get/got
although/though	heard
all right	however
away	now
began/start	nod/nodding
but	shake/shook (esp head shaking)
felt/feel	so
fine	still
	then

Weasel words – qualifiers which drag your writing into mediocrity

a bit	only
almost	perhaps
always	possibly
appears	quite
basically	rather
even	really / truly
fairly	relatively
hope	seems/ed
just	simply
kind of	some/many
literally	somehow
a little /a lot	somewhat
maybe	usually
most/mostly	very
often	