**Word for Word**

*Majority of or most?*

*Majority of*¹ and *most*² have the same meaning—more than half of a total, or the greatest degree.

**Examples:**

The *majority of* women with advanced-stage ovarian cancer are at high risk of remission after debulking surgery and adjuvant chemotherapy.

*Most* (75%) prostate cancers develop in the peripheral zone, but some (20%) arise in the transitional zone.

Glioblastoma multiforme, the *most* common type of primary brain tumor, is universally fatal.

The *majority of* the kids in my family love pizza so long as it doesn’t have anchovies on it.
When using *most* or *majority of* to describe your research findings, be sure to include specific results. Another good option is to leave out *most* or *majority of*, letting the percentages speak for themselves.

**Original:** Our study included 1503 patients; *most* underwent radiation therapy.

**More precise:** Our study included 1503 patients; *most* (1193 [79%]) underwent radiation therapy.

**Good alternative:** Our study included 1503 patients; 1193 (79%) underwent radiation therapy.

Consider using *most* instead of *majority of* in text with strict word or length limits (e.g., grant proposals, abstracts, or synopses).

**Original:** The *majority of* patients (58%) had node-negative disease.

**Shorter:** *Most* patients (58%) had node-negative disease.

**References**


— Ann Sutton

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