

## Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services

### Most Important, Not Most Importantly

Probably **most importantly**, you're healthy for the first time this year. Jim Rome radio show, March 5, 2008.

The correct phrase is *most important*, and the same goes for **more important**; they are often, if not always, shortened versions of *what's most important* or *more important than that*.

*Importantly* means *in an important way*, just as *slowly* means in a slow way. Using the full phrase *what's more importantly* in a sentence illustrates the error well. *What's most importantly is that we try our best*; this sentence doesn't make sense. (Of course, it should be *What's most important is that... .*) It's like saying *What's most clearly to us is that she's trying her best*; I'm sure it's clear to everyone that the latter sentence is grammatically flawed, yet we give a pass to using *importantly* in the same way.

One online dictionary says that *more important* and *more importantly* are used in all kinds of text and by reputable writers, which means that there's no reason not to use *importantly*.

Well, I can think of one reason: it's wrong.

I agree that they are both used by reputable writers; however, I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Writers aren't necessarily grammarians, and many reputable writers and respected editors make some not-so-great grammar choices.

Taken from Everything Language and Grammar, <http://languageandgrammar.com/2008/03/19/most-important-not-most-importantly/>