Seven Deadly Sins of Writing...

Using Find (Ctrl F or Apple F) in your computer, chase down these words in any form you find them. Losing or changing most of them will strengthen your work.

“Find” space should find only the word you're looking for, not every “is” in your screenplay.

is He is grinning... becomes... He grins.
are The convicts are singing opera... The convicts sing opera.
the Nacho hightails it out of the town... Nacho hightails it out of town.
that Ralph can't tell that she's French... Ralph can't tell she's French.
then She laughs. She then looks at Alice... She laughs. She looks at Alice.
wake Tika walks down the hall... Tika prisses down the hall.
sit Sitting at the poker table, Doc deals the cards... At the poker table, Doc deals...
stand The surgeon stands at the operating table and works... At the operating table, the surgeon works...
look Cheryl is looking at Stephanie... Cheryl studies Stephanie.
just I am just totally exhausted... I am totally exhausted.
of the Tom sits by the entrance of the mall... Tom sits by the mall entrance...
begin The tape begins playing... The tape plays.
start She starts moving toward the den... She moves toward the den.
really Betty is really pretty... Betty, hot as a two dollar pistol, struts in.
very The kids sing a very old song... The kids sing a traditional song. (“very” means the following word is weak...)
turn She turns and looks at him... She looks at him.
the phone Bonnie hangs up the phone... Bonnie hangs up.
some He pours some coffee... He pours coffee.
still Kevin, still in paint covered overalls... Kevin, in paint covered overalls.
the room He puts on a tie before leaving the room... He puts on a tie before leaving.
his face Nora has an amused expression on her face... Nora is amused.
seems, appears Tony seems upset... Tony is upset... So, is Tony upset, or just appear to be?
her way Carol pushes her way inside... Carol pushes inside. (“his, its way” too!)
both They both stare slackjawed at the comet... They stare slackjawed at the comet.
ly (as on the end of an adverb!) search for lkspace Also search for ly, and ly, as lkspace will not find an adverb at the end of a sentence, etc. Grade school writers go wild over adverbs. You're past that now. Use them, um, sparingly. If at all.

Search for and change these words in whatever you write and the results will be tighter and more clear. Okay, so it's twenty five deadly sins. So sue me.