

Improving Word Choice

- When writers prepare a first draft, the focus is getting the main ideas on paper rather than on choosing the perfect words.
- During the revision process, the writer can add power and interest to what they have written by adding and/or replacing words.
 - Improving the words used in the first draft to something more precise makes the writing more appropriate to a particular audience, topic and purpose.

Tips to Improve Word Choice

S ynonyms	Replace repeated words with synonyms (words that have the similar meaning), making sure they are appropriate to your <i>tone</i> of writing. <u>Example:</u> Bradley <i>said</i> , "I can't believe it's not butter." Bradley <i>whispered</i> , "I can't believe it's not butter." Bradley <i>giggled</i> , "I can't believe it's not butter."
A nalogies	Use analogies (comparing one idea to another) to help your reader understand your idea. <u>Example:</u> Her voice is like nails on a chalkboard (this suggests a person's voice is annoying).
D elete	Delete words that are not needed, especially if they do not add to the overall message or mood. <u>Example:</u> No matter what happened, he still wanted to go home. No matter what happened, he wanted to go home. (In some cases, the word <i>still</i> can be deleted)
V erbs	Use strong, accurate verbs that help readers visualize the action. <u>Example:</u> The horses <i>ran</i> around the track. The horses <i>galloped</i> around the track.
U nderstanding	Are there words that your reader may not understand? If so, replace or define the words. <u>Example:</u> That movie <i>aggrandized</i> , or glorified the bad guys and made the police look stupid.
S ensory Words	Use sensory language (words related to the five senses) to help your reader <i>experience</i> the writing. <u>Example:</u> The <i>crackling</i> campfire cast a <i>warm glow</i> upon the faces of the children. (The senses of sound, touch and sight are used)