

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“revise drafts to improve sentence structure and word choice by adding, deleting, combining, and rearranging ideas for coherence and clarity”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Authors choose each word on purpose to say exactly what they mean.

When I notice a strong word, I ask what it shows and why the author chose it.

Choosing precise words makes my own writing clear and interesting.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Precise Verbs

from “The Recess Question”

A precise verb tells exactly how an action happens, so the reader can picture it.

This deck teaches **word choice** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice a precise verb.”

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Notice the precise verb.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the precise verb the author chose.

“Chairs scooted back.”

I CAN I can notice the precise verb an author chooses.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

"I can choose the strongest word."

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Choose the strongest word.

Read the sentence. Which word is the author's precise verb?

"A moment later, Beth and her classmates spilled onto the playground."

A. moment B. spilled C. playground

I CAN I can choose the precise verb and explain how I know.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can explain what a word shows.”

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Show what the word does.

What does the underlined word help the reader understand?

“A moment later, Beth and her classmates spilled onto the playground.”

I CAN I can explain what the author's word helps the reader picture or feel.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can revise with a stronger word."

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Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the vague verb with a precise verb.

Plain sentence: Max went to the slide.

Replace the word went with a stronger word.

I CAN I can revise a plain sentence by choosing a stronger word.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can explain why the author chose a word.”

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Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose yelled instead of said?

““I did it!” Lily yelled.”

Why yelled and not said?

I CAN I can explain why an author's word choice is better than a plain word.

Find a precise verb on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more precise verb. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more precise verb.

**Copy the exact words. Then explain what the word shows
and why the author chose it.**

I CAN I can find a precise verb and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

scooted. Scooted tells exactly how the chairs moved. They slid back quickly across the floor as the students jumped up.

CHOOSE

B. spilled. It is the action word, and it tells exactly how the action happens.

SHOW

Spilled shows many students pouring out all at once, the way water spills out of a cup.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Max raced to the slide.

DEFEND

Yelled shows that Lily shouts with joy and pride. The plain word said would not show how excited she feels.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Everyone cheered.” The word cheered works well. Cheered shows the students shouting happily for Lily.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Then the whistle blew. Recess was over. “Awww!” several children groaned.

Which word could replace ‘groaned’ and keep almost the same meaning?

A complained

B giggled

C whispered

D answered

The answer is A.

- A complained**
Correct. The students are unhappy that recess is over. Complained keeps that unhappy feeling.
- B giggled**
Giggled shows fun and laughter, but the students are sad that recess ended.
- C whispered**
Whispered only tells how quiet a voice is. It does not show that the students are unhappy.
- D answered**
Answered is a vague word. No one asked a question, and it shows no feeling at all.