

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 Mystery of the Traveling Shell**”

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.

"Emsy leaned over the glass display case until her nose almost touched it."

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?

“Blue lines curved across the map.”

A. Blue B. curved C. map

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?

“Blue lines curved across the map.”

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: Emsy looked at the shell.

Replace the word looked 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 straighten instead of move?

“It looked ordinary at first, but the museum label made Emsy straighten immediately.”

Why straighten and not move?

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

leaned. Leaned tells exactly how Emsy positioned her body, bending forward to get closer to the glass.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Curved tells exactly how the lines moved across the map, showing the winding shape of the rivers.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Emsy examined the shell.

DEFEND

Straighten shows exactly what Emsy's body did when she read the surprising label. The plain word move could mean any action and would not show her surprise.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: "Emsy's eyebrows lifted." The word lifted works well. Lifted shows Emsy's eyebrows going up, which tells the reader she is surprised by what she discovered.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

For a moment, Emsy pictured the shell beginning its journey near the coast. Perhaps one person exchanged it with another community.

Which word could replace 'exchanged' and keep almost the same meaning?

A shared

B traded

C presented

D delivered

The answer is B.

- A shared**
Shared means giving something to someone. It does not show that both people gave and received.
- B traded**
Correct. Traded means giving something in return for something else, keeping almost the same meaning as exchanged.
- C presented**
Presented means showing or giving something as a gift. It does not include receiving something back.
- D delivered**
Delivered means bringing something to a place. It does not show a two-way swap.