

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

Specific Nouns

from “**Benjamin Franklin and Electricity**”

A specific noun names exactly which person, place, thing, or idea, instead of a general word like thing or place.

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 specific noun.”

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Notice the specific noun.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the specific noun the author chose.

“After studying the issue, Franklin invented the lightning rod.”

I CAN I can notice the specific noun 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 most specific noun?

"People often used candles and lanterns to light their homes after dark."

A. candles B. lanterns C. homes

I CAN I can choose the specific noun 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?

“People often used candles and lanterns to light their homes after dark.”

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 general noun with a specific noun.

Plain sentence: Franklin made a thing that helped people.

Replace the word thing 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 barns instead of structures?

“Homes, churches, barns, schools, and government buildings installed lightning rods on their rooftops.”

Why barns and not structures?

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

Find a specific noun on your own.

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

Go back to the reading.

Find one more specific noun.

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

I CAN I can find a specific noun and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

lightning rod. Lightning rod names the exact invention Franklin created instead of a vague word like device or thing.

CHOOSE

B. lanterns. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

Lanterns names the exact tool people used for light instead of a vague word like items or lights.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Franklin made a lightning rod that helped people.

DEFEND

Barns names a specific structure on a farm. The plain word structures is too vague because it could mean a house, a store, or any other building.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “He helped organize libraries, fire departments, and other community services that made life better for many people.” The word libraries works well. Libraries names the.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

The rod is connected to a wire that runs down the side of the building and into the ground. When lightning strikes the rod, the electricity follows the metal path safely into the ground instead of passing through the building.

Why does the author use the word ‘wire’ instead of a general word like part?

- A** It names the exact part that carries electricity down.
- B** It shows that the lightning rod was expensive to build.
- C** It tells the reader the building was made of metal.
- D** It proves Franklin was the first person to use metal.

The answer is A.

- A** **It names the exact part that carries electricity down.**
Correct. Wire names the specific piece connecting the rod to the ground.
- B** **It shows that the lightning rod was expensive to build.**
Wire names a material, not a price. The passage does not discuss cost.
- C** **It tells the reader the building was made of metal.**
The wire runs along the outside of the building. It does not mean the building itself is made of metal.
- D** **It proves Franklin was the first person to use metal.**
The passage does not say Franklin was the first to use metal. It says he used metal in his invention.