

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 “**Benjamin Franklin and Electricity**”

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.

“Franklin began studying electricity through careful observation and experiments.”

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?

"He talked with other thinkers and scientists and compared ideas."

A. talked B. compared C. ideas

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?

“He talked with other thinkers and scientists and compared ideas.”

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: Franklin did things to learn about electricity.

Replace the word did 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 demonstrated instead of showed?

"He demonstrated that careful observation and experimentation could lead to practical solutions."

Why demonstrated and not showed?

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

studying. Studying tells exactly what Franklin did. He spent time learning about electricity on purpose, not just glancing at it.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Compared tells that Franklin placed ideas side by side to see which ones were stronger or different.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Franklin conducted experiments to learn about electricity.

DEFEND

Demonstrated means Franklin proved his ideas by presenting real evidence and results. The plain word showed could just mean he pointed at something without offering proof.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Instead of making guesses, Franklin believed in collecting evidence.” The word collecting works well. Collecting tells exactly what Franklin did with evidence. He gathered.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

The lightning rod reduced the chance that a building would catch fire after being struck by lightning. Instead of damaging the structure, the electricity could travel through the rod and wire.

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

A ignored

B increased

C lowered

D replaced

The answer is C.

- A ignored**
Ignored means paying no attention. The lightning rod did not ignore the problem; it solved it.
- B increased**
Increased means to make larger. That is the opposite of reduced.
- C lowered**
Correct. Lowered means to make smaller, which keeps almost the same meaning as reduced in the excerpt.
- D replaced**
Replaced means to put something new in place of something old. The rod lowered the risk, not replaced it.