

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 “Serve”

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.

“I placed my recorder carefully on the kitchen table between us.”

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?

“I opened my notebook, clicked my pen, and wrote the date across the top of the page.”

A. opened B. notebook C. clicked

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?

“I opened my notebook, clicked my pen, and wrote the date across the top of the page.”

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: The student used a thing to take notes.

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 communities instead of places?

“A country is made up of people, families, neighborhoods, schools, towns, and communities.”

Why communities and not places?

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

recorder. Recorder names the exact device used to capture the interview, not just a thing or machine.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Notebook names the exact item where the narrator writes notes, not just something to write in.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The student used a clipboard to take notes.

DEFEND

Communities names groups of connected people, not just random locations. The plain word places would lose the meaning of people sharing life together.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “There was a new student in my class who sometimes sat alone at lunch. There was a small garden near the playground that needed weeding.” The word garden works well. Garden.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

I thought about Grandpa standing in the cold Washington air. I thought about President Kennedy's speech. I thought about the Peace Corps volunteers traveling far from home.

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

A tourists

B soldiers

C reporters

D helpers

The answer is **D**.

A **tourists**
Tourists visit for fun, not to help and serve others.

B **soldiers**
Soldiers serve in the military, not in community projects.

C **reporters**
Reporters share news, not help in communities abroad.

D **helpers**
Correct. Volunteers give their time to help, and helpers means the same.