

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 “Columbus’s Arrival”

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.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Notice the specific noun.

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

“Columbus set sail with three ships called the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María.”

I CAN I can notice the specific noun an author chooses.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the strongest word.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Choose the strongest word.

Read the sentence. Which word is the most specific noun?

“One of the first groups Columbus encountered was the Taino.”

A. first B. Taino C. encountered

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.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Show what the word does.

What does the underlined word help the reader understand?

“One of the first groups Columbus encountered was the Taino.”

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."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the general noun with a specific noun.

Plain sentence: The explorer used a thing to cross the water.

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.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose King Ferdinand instead of leader?

“King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to help.”

Why King Ferdinand and not leader?

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

Niña. Niña names one of the three exact ships Columbus used, instead of just saying a boat.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Taino names the specific Native American group Columbus met, not just people or natives.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The explorer used a caravel to cross the water.

DEFEND

King Ferdinand names the specific Spanish ruler who agreed to support the voyage. The plain word leader would not tell the reader which ruler or which country.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Foods that originated in the Americas, such as corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and cacao, became important in Europe and other parts of the world.” The word cacao works well..

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Life aboard the ships was not comfortable. Sailors worked long hours and had very little space. Food often became stale, and fresh water had to be carefully rationed.

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

A limited

B collected

C tasted

D replaced

The answer is **A**.

- A limited**
Correct. Rationed means each person received only a small, controlled amount, which is what limited means here.
- B collected**
Collected means gathered, but rationed means shared in controlled amounts.
- C tasted**
Tasted describes trying a flavor, not controlling how much water each person receives.
- D replaced**
Replaced means swapped for something new. The sailors controlled their water supply, not swapped it.