

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 Wealth of Mansa Musa**”

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.

“Merchants packed supplies, food, and valuable goods before beginning their long trips.”

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?

"Soldiers guarded many of the trade routes, and laws helped protect people and their goods."

A. Soldiers B. guarded C. routes

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?

“Soldiers guarded many of the trade routes, and laws helped protect people and their goods.”

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: The traders went across the desert.

Replace the word went 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 recorded instead of wrote?

“Writers recorded stories about Mansa Musa, and mapmakers began including Mali on their maps because so many people had heard about its wealth.”

Why recorded and not wrote?

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

packed. Packed tells exactly what merchants did: carefully filling containers with everything needed for the journey.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Guarded tells exactly what the soldiers did: watching over and defending the trade routes from danger.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The traders journeyed across the desert.

DEFEND

Recorded shows the writers carefully preserved Mansa Musa's stories so they would last for future readers. The plain word wrote does not show that careful purpose.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Mansa Musa gave away large amounts of gold to people in need.” The word gave away works well. Gave away tells exactly what Mansa Musa did: freely handing gold to people.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Families often protected these books for generations because they believed knowledge was valuable.

The word 'protected' helps the reader understand that families

- A** hid the books so no one could read them
- B** kept the books safe because they were important
- C** sold the books to earn money for their families
- D** decorated the books with gold and jewels

The answer is **B**.

A

hid the books so no one could read them

Protected means kept safe, not hidden from readers. The passage says books were studied.

B

kept the books safe because they were important

Correct. Protected means the families guarded the books carefully because the knowledge inside mattered.

C

sold the books to earn money for their families

The excerpt says families believed knowledge was valuable, not that they sold the books.

D

decorated the books with gold and jewels

Protected means kept safe, not decorated.