

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 “Understanding the Texas Regions”

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.

“Houston is one of the largest cities in Texas and is important for energy, medicine, transportation, and business.”

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?

“Palo Duro Canyon is located in this region and is one of the largest canyons in the United States.”

A. Palo Duro Canyon B. located C. region

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?

"Palo Duro Canyon is located in this region and is one of the largest canyons in the United States."

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 students visited a place in the state.

Replace the word place 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 Big Bend National Park instead of place?

"Big Bend National Park is located in this region."

Why Big Bend National Park and not place?

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

Houston. Houston names the exact city, not just a big city or an important place.

CHOOSE

A. Palo Duro Canyon. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

Palo Duro Canyon names the exact landform, not just a canyon or a place.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The students visited a canyon in the state.

DEFEND

Big Bend National Park names the exact park where visitors hike, camp, and see the Rio Grande. The plain word place could mean anywhere in Texas.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “A prairie is a large area of grassland.” The word prairie works well. Prairie names the specific type of flat, grassy landform instead of just saying land or area.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

A port is a place where ships load and unload goods. Ports along the Gulf help Texas trade with other states and countries.

What does the word 'port' help the reader understand?

- A** a place where ships pick up and deliver goods
- B** a type of boat used for crossing the ocean
- C** a storm that forms near the Texas coastline
- D** a wall or fence built around a harbor area

The answer is **A**.

A **a place where ships pick up and deliver goods**
Correct. The excerpt defines a port as where ships load and unload goods.

B **a type of boat used for crossing the ocean**
A port is a location, not a type of boat.

C **a storm that forms near the Texas coastline**
A port is a place for shipping, not a weather event.

D **a wall or fence built around a harbor area**
A port is the shipping location itself, not a structure.