

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

Vivid Adjectives

from “Understanding the Texas Regions”

A vivid adjective describes a noun with exact detail so the reader can picture it clearly.

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 vivid adjective.”

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Notice the vivid adjective.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the vivid describing word the author chose.

“The North Central Plains has rolling hills, grasslands, and more trees than western Texas.”

I CAN I can notice the vivid adjective 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 vivid adjective?

"The Mountains and Basins region is the driest region in Texas."

A. Mountains B. driest C. region

I CAN I can choose the vivid adjective 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?

“The Mountains and Basins region is the driest region in Texas.”

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 weak describing word with a vivid adjective.

Plain sentence: The land in the west was rough.

Replace the word rough 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 drier instead of dry?

“The Great Plains has a much drier climate than the regions to the east.”

Why drier and not dry?

I CAN I can explain why an author's word choice is better than a plain word.

Find a vivid adjective on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more vivid adjective. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more vivid adjective.

**Copy the exact words. Then explain what the word shows
and why the author chose it.**

I CAN I can find a vivid adjective and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

rolling. Rolling paints a picture of hills that rise and fall gently like waves, showing soft, curving land.

CHOOSE

B. driest. It describes a noun with exact detail the reader can picture.

SHOW

Driest paints a picture of a region with almost no rainfall, showing how extreme the conditions are.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The land in the west was rugged.

DEFEND

Drier compares the climate to wetter regions, painting a sharper picture of the contrast. The plain word dry alone would not show the comparison between regions.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The mountains make the region beautiful, but they can also make travel more difficult.” The word beautiful works well. Beautiful paints a picture of mountains that are.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Cacti, desert shrubs, and short grasses are common. These plants are adapted to hot, dry conditions.

The word 'adapted' helps the reader understand that these plants

- A** were planted by people who live in the desert
- B** changed over time to survive with very little water
- C** grow taller when more rain falls in the area
- D** can only grow in the Mountains and Basins region

The answer is **B**.

- A** **were planted by people who live in the desert**
Adapted means the plants changed naturally over time, not that people planted them.
- B** **changed over time to survive with very little water**
Correct. Adapted means the plants developed features that help them survive in hot, dry conditions.
- C** **grow taller when more rain falls in the area**
Adapted means fitting the dry conditions, not growing taller with more rain.
- D** **can only grow in the Mountains and Basins region**
Adapted means suited to dry conditions, not limited to one specific region.