

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 “What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection”

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.

“A natural resource is something found in nature that people can use.”

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?

“Merchants traveled in caravans, often using camels to carry goods across the desert.”

A. traveled B. caravans C. desert

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?

"Merchants traveled in caravans, often using camels to carry goods across the desert."

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 group used animals to move stuff.

Replace the word stuff 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 Caddo instead of people?

“The Caddo traded with other communities.”

Why Caddo and not people?

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

natural resource. Natural resource names the exact category of useful things from nature, not just stuff or things.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Caravans names the specific groups of travelers and pack animals, not just groups or teams.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The group used camels to move supplies.

DEFEND

Caddo names the exact Native American group that lived in East Texas. The plain word people would not tell the reader which specific group or where they lived.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Salt was valuable because people needed it and because it could help preserve food.” The word salt works well. Salt names the exact mineral that was traded, instead of.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Scarcity occurs when people have limited amounts of resources compared with what they want or need.

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

- A** People always have more than enough resources.
- B** Resources are easy to find in every region.
- C** People never need to share or trade with others.
- D** There are not enough resources for all wants and needs.

The answer is **D**.

- A** **People always have more than enough resources.**
Scarcity means the opposite: people do not have enough of what they want or need.
- B** **Resources are easy to find in every region.**
Scarcity means resources are limited, not easy to find everywhere.
- C** **People never need to share or trade with others.**
Scarcity is actually a reason people trade, not a reason they avoid trading.
- D** **There are not enough resources for all wants and needs.**
Correct. Scarcity means people have limited resources compared to what they want, so they must make choices.