

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.

“Forests can provide timber.”

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?

“Families grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash.”

A. Families B. crops C. squash

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?

“Families grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash.”

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 river gave people stuff they needed.

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 East Texas instead of a place?

"Many Caddo communities developed in what is now East Texas, where rivers, forests, and fertile land supported daily life."

Why East Texas and not a 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

timber. Timber names the exact kind of wood cut from forests for building, instead of a general word like stuff.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Squash names one exact crop the families grew, so the reader knows just what was in the fields.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The river gave people water and fish they needed.

DEFEND

East Texas tells the reader exactly where the Caddo lived. The plain phrase a place would leave the reader guessing where the story happens.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Coastal areas can provide fish and places for ships to travel.” The word fish works well. Fish names the exact food the coast provides, instead of a general word like food.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

People cannot control every part of climate, but they can study it and make decisions based on what they learn.

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

A choices

B problems

C questions

D patterns

The answer is **A**.

A

choices

Correct. Decisions means choices people make after thinking carefully.

B

problems

Problems are difficulties, not thoughtful selections.

C

questions

Questions ask for information. Decisions are final selections.

D

patterns

Patterns are repeated trends, not acts of choosing.