

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 Ocean Lesson”

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.

“Their tiny flippers pushed against the sand again and again.”

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?

“A few turtles slipped into shallow dips and had to push themselves out.”

A. few B. slipped C. turtles

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?

"A few turtles slipped into shallow dips and had to push themselves out."

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 animal went across the sand.

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 leaned instead of moved?

"Nyla leaned forward, careful not to step too close."

Why leaned and not moved?

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

pushed. Pushed tells exactly how the flippers pressed into the sand to move forward.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Slipped tells exactly how the turtles accidentally slid into the dips, not that they fell or walked.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The animal crawled across the sand.

DEFEND

Leaned tells the reader that Nyla bent her upper body forward with interest. The plain word moved would not show what her body actually did.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Grains of sand shifted, and little cracks formed in the shells hidden below the surface.” The word shifted works well. Shifted tells exactly how the sand moved slightly to.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Others paused for a moment, then began moving again.

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

A collapsed

B hesitated

C vanished

D retreated

The answer is **B**.

- A collapsed**
Collapsed means to fall down completely. The turtles only stopped briefly.
- B hesitated**
Correct. The turtles briefly stopped before continuing, which is what hesitated means.
- C vanished**
Vanished means to disappear. The turtles did not disappear; they just stopped moving.
- D retreated**
Retreated means to move backward. The turtles stopped but did not go back.