

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 “Spanish Rule in Early Texas”

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.

“To reach these goals, they built missions and presidios across the region.”

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?

"One important route was El Camino Real, which means "the Royal Road.""

A. El Camino Real B. One C. important

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?

“One important route was El Camino Real, which means “the Royal Road.””

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 workers built a thing near the river.

Replace the word thing 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 cattle instead of animals?

"Spanish settlers developed ways of raising cattle on open land."

Why cattle and not animals?

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

presidios. Presidios names the specific type of Spanish military fort instead of a vague word like buildings.

CHOOSE

A. El Camino Real. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

El Camino Real names the exact road instead of a vague word like path or route.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The workers built a fort near the river.

DEFEND

Cattle tells the reader exactly which animals the settlers raised. The plain word animals is too general to give the reader a clear picture.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The presidios had to stand their ground when protecting nearby settlements.” The word settlements works well. Settlements names the specific type of community the soldiers.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Words connected to ranching, such as rodeo and lasso, come from Spanish. Over time, ranching became closely connected to the identity of Texas.

Why does the author most likely include the word 'lasso'?

- A** To give an example of a Spanish word still used today
- B** To explain how cowboys learned to ride horses in Texas
- C** To describe how presidios protected the settlements
- D** To show that Texas was difficult to settle

The answer is **A**.

- A** **To give an example of a Spanish word still used today**
Correct. Lasso is a concrete example that proves the author's point about Spanish influence.
- B** **To explain how cowboys learned to ride horses in Texas**
The excerpt discusses ranching words, not how cowboys rode horses.
- C** **To describe how presidios protected the settlements**
The excerpt is about ranching vocabulary, not about presidios.
- D** **To show that Texas was difficult to settle**
The excerpt is about lasting Spanish influence, not about how hard settlement was.