

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 Garden That Wouldn't Grow**”

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.

“They pulled weeds, loosened the soil, and mixed in compost to improve the growing conditions.”

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?

“She slowly poured water around every stem until the soil became dark and soaked.”

A. slowly B. water C. poured

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?

“She slowly poured water around every stem until the soil became dark and soaked.”

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: She put water on the plants.

Replace the word put 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 dug instead of made?

"Finally, she dug a small hole beside one of the tomato plants."

Why dug and not made?

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

loosened. Loosened tells exactly how they broke up the packed soil to make it softer for planting.

CHOOSE

C. poured. It is the action word, and it tells exactly how the action happens.

SHOW

Poured tells exactly how Kendrix tipped the water out of the can in a steady stream.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: She sprinkled water on the plants.

DEFEND

Dug shows Kendrix scooping out soil to make the hole. The plain word made does not show how the hole was formed.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Her grandmother reminded her that plants do need water, but she encouraged Kendrix to look carefully before deciding what to do.” The word encouraged works well..

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Small puddles remained around several plants long after Kendrix had finished watering.

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

A lingered

B vanished

C expanded

D appeared

The answer is **A**.

- A** **lingered**
Correct. Lingered means the puddles stayed for a long time, just as remained does.
- B** **vanished**
Vanished means to disappear, which is the opposite of what the puddles did.
- C** **expanded**
Expanded means to grow larger. The excerpt says puddles stayed, not that they grew.
- D** **appeared**
Appeared means to show up for the first time. The puddles were already there.