

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 “A Visit to the Workshop”

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.

“A wagon rolled past them, and its wheels rattled against the stones.”

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?

“Wires stretched across tables, and glass bulbs sat in rows.”

A. Wires B. across C. stretched

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?

“Wires stretched across tables, and glass bulbs sat in rows.”

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 sound went through the building.

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 rushed instead of came?

"Her brother opened the door, and warm air rushed toward them."

Why rushed and not came?

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

rattled. Rattled tells exactly the shaking, clattering sound the wheels made on the rough stone road.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Stretched tells exactly how the wires were pulled tight from one end of the table to the other.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The sound echoed through the building.

DEFEND

Rushed shows the warm air moving quickly toward Zaylen and her brother. The plain word came does not show speed or force.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “People hurried toward their homes before the night became even darker.” The word hurried works well. Hurried tells exactly how people walked quickly because darkness was.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Edison stopped beside a table and asked a worker several questions. Then he crossed the room to check a machine.

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

A studied

B cleaned

C traversed

D organized

The answer is C.

- A studied**
Studied means to look carefully. Crossed means to walk from one side to the other.
- B cleaned**
Cleaned means to remove dirt. It has nothing to do with moving across a room.
- C traversed**
Correct. Traversed means to travel across an area, which matches crossing the room.
- D organized**
Organized means to put things in order, not to walk across a space.