

Other Ways to Say It: Common Adjectives #1

When you use strong adjectives, your writing becomes more descriptive and impactful. Strong adjectives are specific and vivid, and they can evoke emotion from your reader. Look at the bolded adjective in this example.

⊘ The **old** city overlooked the cliffs.

The adjective leaves the reader to interpret what the scene actually looks like. To create a more expressive, specific sentence for your reader, consider replacing the adjective with something else. Look at these alternatives.

- ✓ The **ancient** city overlooked the cliffs.
- ✓ The **ruined** city overlooked the cliffs.
- ✓ The **decrepit** city overlooked the cliffs.
- ✓ The **archaic** city overlooked the cliffs.
- ✓ The **time-worn** city overlooked the cliffs.

These adjectives better describe the city and help readers picture the scene more vividly.



Directions: Look at the adjectives below. Then, write down at least five more descriptive ways to say them. Use reference materials, such as a dictionary or a thesaurus, to help you.

*Be sure to keep this worksheet to add more words as you encounter them in your reading and everyday life! You can refer to these lists the next time you are writing. **Sample answers**

large	small	nice	mean
huge	tiny	kind	unpleasant
massive	compact	generous	rude
sizable	petite	caring	nasty
enormous	modest	considerate	cruel
giant	pocket-sized	polite	uncaring
substantial	miniscule	friendly	grouchy
hefty	diminutive	warm-hearted	hostile