

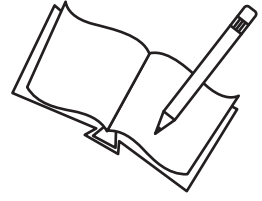
What Sounds Better? Verbs and Adjectives

Name: _____

Date: _____

The medium of writers is language. Just as an artist uses paint, writers use words to create a vivid image in the reader's mind. Adjectives and verbs are among the most powerful words writers can use to create images.

1. Read both paragraphs below. Which one do you think is more effective at painting a picture, A or B? B Why?



Responses will vary, but should note the use of more vivid and descriptive adjectives and verbs in paragraph B.

A

The man walked to the intersection, holding his books and folders. He stopped at the traffic light, the wind blowing his hair back from his face, and looked to the left and right waiting for the cars to come to a stop.

B

The hunched-over man shuffled to the busy intersection, cradling his books and crumpled papers. He paused at the traffic light, the wind brushing his gray hair back from his face, and peered to the left and right waiting for the buzzing cars to come to a stop.

Now go back and read them both again. This time, circle the verbs and underline the adjectives as you read.

2. What do you notice about the use of verbs and adjectives in the paragraphs?

Sample response: The verbs and adjectives are more vivid and descriptive.

3. What do you think is the most powerful phrase in this description?

Responses will vary.

Now you try. Pick a phrase or sentence in either of the paragraphs above and rewrite it using more descriptive verbs and adjectives.

BEFORE

AFTER

Responses will vary.
