

Word Choice: The Perfect Verb

Writers often underestimate the importance of choosing the perfect verb - they think that the most powerful description is in adjectives. Circle the verbs in the sentences below. Then rewrite each sentence with better verbs or verb phrases that bring the sentence to life.

This	could be better written as
say/said	Exclaim, yell, scold, whisper, sang, calmly remarked, announced, revealed, declared, hinted, suggested
go/went	Saunter, skip, sulk, jump, bounce, slither, dance, inch, back out, flee, disappear
eat	Nibble on, mow down, inhale, devour, gobble, attack, feast on

Example:

1. After the dog **ate** the Thanksgiving turkey, she **left** the room.

After the dog inhaled the Thanksgiving turkey, she sulked out of the room.

2. The girl went around the track and smiled when she won first place.

The girl **zipped** around the track and **her face beamed** when she won first place.

3. The crowd cheered when the player made the basket at the buzzer.

The crowd **exploded** when the player **hit** the basket at the buzzer.

4. Delaney said, "Why did you ruin all of my cupcakes?"

Delaney **barked**, "Why did you **demolish** all of my cupcakes?"

5. After winning the lottery, Dave went home and celebrated.

After winning the lottery, Dave **sped** home and **danced the night away**.

