



A description should include carefully chosen, precise words to help your readers picture the topic.

Read this news article about a fire. Then read the revision. Underline the words in the revision that give a more accurate description of the event.

**Draft****Fire at Factory**

Late last night, some emergency vehicles went to a fire at the Sweets Candy Factory on Main Street. A call came into the fire station late. The caller smelled something and thought that there might be something wrong at the factory. Within minutes, people arrived at the factory. Flames were coming from windows as smoke rose from the roof. People went into the building. Other people aimed hoses at the roof of the big building. Because the night was cold, ice began to cover the sidewalk. People fell as they tried to put out the fire. When it was finally over, there wasn't much left. However, the owners of the factory plan to begin rebuilding in a few months.

**Revision****Candy Factory Consumed by Blaze**

Late last night, five fire trucks and one ambulance sped to a raging fire at the Sweets Candy Factory on Main Street. A call came into the fire station just after midnight. The worried caller smelled burning chocolate and thought there might be a fire at the factory. Within minutes, firefighters and other emergency workers arrived at the factory. Huge yellow flames were shooting from windows as thick black smoke curled from the roof. Firefighters rushed into the brick building. More firefighters aimed enormous hoses at the roof of the five-story building. Because the temperature was below zero, ice began to cover the sidewalk. Firefighters slipped and fell as they scrambled to put out the inferno. When it was finally over, nothing remained but charred, crumbling ruins. However, the owners of the factory plan to begin rebuilding in June.



Choose strong, specific verbs to show exactly what is happening. Avoid tired, overused verbs.

- A. Read this personal narrative about a hike in the woods. Circle all the forms of the verb *walk*.

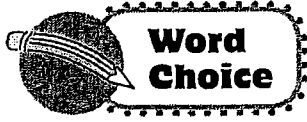
### Walking Along the Trail

Ben and I chose a tough trail for our hike. At first, we walked along a level path through the trees, smelling the pine-scented air. But soon the path became rocky and steep. We walked up the slope, walking over big rocks as the trail went higher. We started getting tired, but we walked on. We were doing pretty well until Ben fell over a tree root and messed up his shirt. Then, I fell while crossing a stream and got soaked! However, we kept going. Breathing hard as we walked the last few feet to the summit, we saw the view. There were tall trees as far as the eye could see, their leaves a brilliant orange and red against the autumn sky. We were happy until we realized that we'd have to walk back down that same big hill to get home!

- B. Read this revision. Circle the verbs that have replaced the forms of *walk*, as well as other verbs that have been improved.

### Tripping Along the Trail

Ben and I chose a tough trail for our hike. At first, we strolled along a level path through the trees, inhaling the pine-scented air. But soon the path became rocky and steep. We trudged up the slope, scrambling over big rocks as the trail climbed higher. We started getting tired, but we plodded on. We were doing pretty well until Ben stumbled over a tree root and tore his shirt. Then, I slipped while crossing a stream and got soaked! However, we kept going. Panting as we crept the last few feet to the summit, we marveled at the view. There were tall trees as far as the eye could see, their leaves a brilliant orange and red against the autumn sky. We were happy until we realized we'd have to hike down that same hill to get home!



Use figurative language to make your descriptions come alive for your reader.

Read this story about a girl who has just moved from Alaska to Florida. Then:

- Finish the similes, metaphors, and personification by filling in the blanks.
- Use proofreading marks to correct any errors in subject-verb agreement.

### Adjusting to a New View

“Welcome to Swampland,” Niki sighs as she steps out onto the porch and is immediately struck by a wall of heat and humidity. It is as hot as \_\_\_\_\_ . “I can’t believe we moved here from Fairbanks,” mutters Niki. “Is my dad trying to kill me?” She turn on the outside fan and flops onto a lounge chair. Within minutes, she is covered in sweat and feels like \_\_\_\_\_ .

She gaze down the barely paved road, letting her eyes relax until she sees heat waves \_\_\_\_\_ above the pavement. They rises like \_\_\_\_\_. Across the road, a lethargic alligator slides lazily into a muddy pond, slowly submerging \_\_\_\_\_. “I guess he don’t like the heat any more than I do,” Niki thinks.

Suddenly, the wind picks up and the temperature drop. Niki looks out across the marshy fields. Massive storm clouds is rolling in, as big and dark as \_\_\_\_\_. They seem to be \_\_\_\_\_. Niki, as if \_\_\_\_\_. The next second, a bolt of lightning flashes on the horizon. A deafening thunderclap shakes the house like \_\_\_\_\_. More and more lightning bolts begin to \_\_\_\_\_ the sky. Niki grins as she watch the performance. “Now THAT,” she admits, “is pretty cool.”

## Word Choice: Using adjectives and adverbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adjective:** a word that describes a noun (person, place, or thing)

Examples: blue, happy, aggressive, soft, metal, thin.

**Adverb:** a word that describes a verb (action word).

Examples: lazily, quickly, slowly, suddenly, half-heartedly.

Fill in the blank with adjectives and adverbs to make the story more descriptive.

### A Bear's Story

It was getting close to lunch time when my (adj) \_\_\_\_\_  
papa said it's time to go (adv) \_\_\_\_\_ find some food.  
My whole family (adv) \_\_\_\_\_ crawled out  
of the cave and walked down to the (adj) \_\_\_\_\_  
forest. Before we got to the (adj) \_\_\_\_\_ creek  
where we usually found (adj) \_\_\_\_\_ fish, we  
heard a (adj) \_\_\_\_\_ noise! There were  
some (adj) \_\_\_\_\_ humans sitting (adv) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ around a fire making a lot of noise!  
We (adv) \_\_\_\_\_ approached the fire and  
peeked (adv) \_\_\_\_\_ at them from behind  
the bushes. Suddenly my (adj) \_\_\_\_\_ brother  
leaned too far forward and rolled (adv) \_\_\_\_\_  
out of the bushes and into the middle of the group of humans. Well,  
guess what happened next! The humans (you finish the story!)....

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