



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!

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!)....

SAID IS DEAD!

Name _____ 7. _____

Date _____

Directions: Replace the word "said" with a better "said" word. Be creative!

1. "Look at this!" said Jenny. "I think it must be a magic stone!" (From *Under the Moon*)

Replacement word: _____

2. "Dancing is a bore," said Cindy. (From *What's So Great about Cindy Snappleby*)

Replacement word: _____

3. "Clumsy fool!" said a woman's voice. "Watch where you're going, stupid!" (From *The Worst Person in the World at Crab Beach*)

Replacement word: _____

Now it's your turn to write your own sentences - they must include a direct quotation and a word other than "said"!

4. _____

