

 SCHOLASTIC

# BANISH BORING WORDS!

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**Teaching**  
*Resources*

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# Transitions



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** So, dogs make the perfect family pet.

**Interesting:** Without a doubt, dogs make the perfect family pet.

## For the Beginning

A bad	At the beginning	Initially	One important
A good	Before	In the beginning	The first
An important	Early on	In the first place	To begin
As soon as	First	It started when	To start
At first	First of all	One	Yesterday


## For the Middle

A better	Another important	Furthermore	Next
Accordingly	A second	However	Second
Additionally	At the same time	In addition	Secondly
After	A worse	In fact	Shortly thereafter
After that	Before long	In the meantime	Soon after
Afterward	Besides	Later	Suddenly
All at once	During	Later on	Then
All of a sudden	Equally important	Likewise	The next
Along with	Following this	Meanwhile	The second
Also	For example	More importantly	When
Another	For instance	Moreover	While

## For the End

Accordingly	For this reason	Later on	Therefore
A final	Furthermore	Moreover	The worst
After	Hence	Most importantly	Thus
After that	In brief	Obviously	To conclude
All at once	In conclusion	Of course	To summarize
All in all	In fact	On the whole	To sum up
All of a sudden	In other words	Shortly thereafter	To this end
As a result	In short	Since	Ultimately
At last	In summary	Soon after	Undeniably
At the end	In the end	The best	Undoubtedly
Clearly	Last	The final	When
Consequently	Last of all	The last	With this in mind
Eventually	Lastly	The most important	Without a doubt
Finally	Later	Then	Without question

# Essay Verbs for Writing About...

 **Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:** The article "Butterflies" is about the migration habits of butterflies.  
**Interesting:** The article "Butterflies" investigates the migration habits of butterflies.

## Characters

attempts	determines	experiences	learns	strives
battles	discovers	faces	realizes	struggles
competes	encounters	figures out	recognizes	undergoes
copes	endeavors	finds out	seeks	understands
deals with	endures	grapples with	sets out	undertakes

## Compare/Contrast Texts

analyzes	contrasts	emphasizes	explores	identifies
classifies	considers	examines	focuses on	presents
compares	deals with	explains	highlights	points out

## Descriptions

depicts	describes	illustrates	portrays	presents
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## Informational/Expository Texts

analyzes	defines	explores	identifies	provides
answers	describes	features	informs	reports
classifies	examines	focuses on	investigates	reveals
deals with	explains	highlights	presents	traces

## Messages/Lessons

advises	expresses	illustrates	reminds	stresses
demonstrates	focuses on	implies	reveals	suggests
emphasizes	illuminates	points out	shows	teaches

## Narrative Stories

chronicles	describes	follows	presents	retells
deals with	details	illustrates	recounts	tells about
depicts	explores	narrates	relates	traces

## Persuasive Texts

addresses	contends	discourages	exposes	reasons
advises	convinces	disputes	focuses on	recommends
argues	criticizes	emphasizes	insists	refutes
asserts	deals with	encourages	points out	rejects
claims	defends	evaluates	praises	suggests
confronts	denies	examines	proposes	supports

# Movements



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The soccer player moved fast.  
**Interesting:** The soccer player streaked past opponents and sprinted toward the goal.

Fast			Slow		
biked	jerked	skittered	ambled	loitered	staggered
bolted	jolted	slammed	biked	lollygagged	stalked
bounded	jostled	slapped	brewed	lounged	stamped
burst	jumped	slashed	coasted	lugged	stepped
bustled	kicked	sliced	crawled	lumbered	stomped
charged	knocked	smacked	crept	lurked	straggled
chased	lashed	smashed	cruised	marched	strayed
clamored	leapt	snapped	dawdled	meandered	strode
crashed	lunged	snatched	dillydallied	moped	stroked
darted	mauled	sped	dragged	moseyed	strolled
dashed	nabbed	sprang	drifted	napped	strutted
dodged	outpaced	sprinted	dripped	paced	swaggered
dove	outran	stampeded	edged	plodded	swayed
erupted	plunged	streaked	floated	popped	tiptoed
flailed	pounced	swiped	flowed	poked	toddled
fled	quickenened	swooped	frolicked	prowled	trailed
flew	raced	tackled	froze	relaxed	traipsed
frisked	ran	tore	gallivanted	roamed	traversed
galloped	rode	trotted	glided	rocked	treaded
grabbed	rushed	whirred	hiked	roved	trekked
grasped	scampered	whisked	hobbled	sauntered	tromped
gunned	scouted	whizzed	inched	shuffled	trooped
hastened	scrambled	wrestled	jogged	skipped	trudged
hightailed	scurried	yanked	journeyed	slinked	undulate
hurried	scuttled	zapped	lagged	slithered	ventured
hustled	shot	zigzagged	limped	slogged	waited
jabbed	shoved	zipped	lingered	slowed	walked
jammed	skipped	zoomed	loafed	snuck	wallowed
			lobbed	sputtered	wandered

# Action Verbs



*Z-Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The hungry students ate their lunches.  
**Interesting:** The hungry students scarfed down sandwiches and devoured cookies.

**arrived**  
 alighted  
 appeared  
 disembarked  
 dismounted  
 entered  
 landed  
 reached

**ate**  
 attacked  
 chowed  
 consumed  
 devoured  
 feasted  
 gobbled  
 gorged  
 grazed  
 inhaled  
 munched  
 nibbled  
 noshed  
 pecked  
 picked  
 porked  
 scarfed  
 snacked  
 wolfed

**attacked**  
 ambushed  
 assaulted  
 besieged  
 bombarded  
 charged  
 combated  
 infiltrated  
 invaded  
 jumped  
 mugged

overwhelmed  
 pounced  
 raided  
 rushed  
 stormed  
 struck

**began**  
 activated  
 commenced  
 incited  
 initiated  
 instigated  
 instituted  
 introduced  
 launched  
 originated  
 pioneered  
 started

**broke**  
 busted  
 cracked  
 crushed  
 demolished  
 fractured  
 severed  
 shattered  
 smashed  
 snapped  
 split  
 tore

**bumped**  
 banged  
 bounced  
 butted  
 collided  
 jarred  
 jerked

jolted  
 jostled  
 knocked  
 pounded  
 rattled  
 shook  
 slammed  
 smacked  
 thudded  
 thumped  
 thwacked

**caught**  
 apprehended  
 bagged  
 busted  
 captured  
 hooked  
 lassoed  
 nabbed  
 nailed  
 netted  
 plucked  
 snagged  
 snared  
 snatched

**changed**  
 adapted  
 altered  
 converted  
 evolved  
 metamorphosed  
 modified  
 mutated  
 reformed  
 remodeled  
 renovated  
 reorganized  
 restyled

revolutionized  
 transfigured  
 transformed  
 transposed

**chased**  
 charged  
 drove  
 followed  
 hounded  
 hunted  
 pursued  
 rushed  
 sped  
 tracked  
 trailed

**cheered**  
 applauded  
 clapped  
 hailed  
 praised  
 rooted  
 saluted  
 yelled

**clapped**  
 applauded  
 cheered  
 patted  
 slapped

**climbed**  
 ascended  
 clambered  
 crawled  
 escalated  
 mounted  
 rose  
 scaled  
 soared

# Action Verbs

## closed

blocked  
bolted  
buttoned  
clenched  
clogged  
corked  
locked  
obstructed  
plugged  
screened  
sealed  
shut  
stuffed

## covered

blanketed  
buried  
camouflaged  
carpeted  
cloaked  
clothed  
coated  
concealed  
disguised  
eclipsed  
enclosed  
enfolded  
enshrouded  
enveloped  
hid  
masked  
obscured  
screened  
shaded  
shrouded  
veiled  
wrapped

## crashed

crunched  
sideswiped  
smashed  
totaled

## cried

bawled  
bemoaned  
bewailed  
blubbered  
grieved  
groaned  
howled  
lamented  
moaned  
mourned  
sniffed  
sniveled  
sobbed  
wailed  
wept  
whimpered  
whined

## cut

amputated  
carved  
chiseled  
chopped  
cleaved  
clipped  
cropped  
curtailed  
diced  
gashed  
hacked  
lacerated  
lopped  
nicked  
pierced  
punctured  
ripped  
sheared  
slashed  
sliced  
slit  
snipped  
split  
whacked

## danced

boogied  
frolicked  
hopped  
hustled  
jigged  
jitterbugged  
jived  
jumped  
leapt  
pranced  
rocked  
shimmied  
spun  
strutted  
swayed  
swung  
tangoed  
tapped  
twisted  
waltzed  
whirled

## destroyed

annihilated  
crushed  
decimated  
demolished  
eradicated  
exterminated  
extinguished  
leveled  
quashed  
quelled  
ravaged  
razed  
ruined  
sabotaged  
shattered  
smashed  
totaled  
trashed  
vandalized  
wasted  
wrecked

## disappeared

absconded  
dissolved  
ebbed  
evanesced  
evaporated  
faded  
fled  
melted  
receded  
retreated  
vanished  
waned

## dragged

hauled  
lugged  
schlepped  
towed  
trailed  
transported  
tugged  
yanked

## drank

chugged  
consumed  
downed  
gargled  
gulped  
guzzled  
lapped  
sipped  
slurped  
swallowed  
swigged  
toasted

## escaped

absconded  
bolted  
circumvented  
deserted  
disappeared

# ...more Action Verbs

## **escaped** (*cont'd*)

dodged  
ducked  
eluded  
evaded  
fled

## **exploded**

backfired  
blasted  
blazed  
burst  
detonated  
erupted  
ruptured  
shattered  
split  
thundered

## **fell**

collapsed  
declined  
descended  
dropped  
plunged  
poured  
stumbled  
sunk  
toppled  
tottered  
tripped  
tumbled

## **fixed**

adjusted  
corrected  
doctored  
mended  
overhauled  
patched  
rebuilt  
reconstructed  
repaired  
restored  
revamped

## **flew**

buzzed  
circled  
crossed  
darted  
dashed  
dove  
drifted  
floated  
fluttered  
glided  
hovered  
jetted  
maneuvered  
scudded  
skimmed  
soared  
swooped  
whisked  
whooshed  
zipped  
zoomed

## **fought**

battled  
bickered  
boxed  
brawled  
clashed  
contended  
disputed  
dueled  
feuded  
grappled  
jostled  
quarreled  
scuffled  
skirmished  
sparring  
tussled  
warred  
wrestled

## **found**

discovered  
located  
pinpointed  
recovered  
spotted  
uncovered  
unearthed

## **gathered**

aggregated  
assembled  
clustered  
collected  
congregated  
convened  
converged  
corralled  
crowded  
flocked  
herded  
hoarded  
huddled  
rallied  
reunited  
stockpiled  
swarmed  
thronged  
united

## **gave**

awarded  
bequeathed  
bestowed  
conferred  
contributed  
donated  
endowed  
entrusted  
gifted  
granted  
handed  
presented  
provided

relinquished  
supplied

## **grew**

abounded  
amplified  
broadened  
developed  
doubled  
enlarged  
expanded  
extended  
flourished  
heightened  
increased  
inflated  
lengthened  
matured  
multiplied  
produced  
rose  
shot  
spread  
sprouted  
stretched  
swelled  
thickened  
waxed  
widened

## **held**

clasped  
cleaved  
clenched  
clung  
clutched  
cradled  
embraced  
enclosed  
grasped  
gripped  
hugged  
palmed  
squeezed



# ...more Action Verbs

## **hit**

bashed  
beat  
boxed  
clipped  
clobbered  
clocked  
clubbed  
cuffed  
flailed  
hooked  
jabbed  
knocked  
nailed  
pelted  
popped  
pounded  
punched  
slapped  
slugged  
smacked  
socked  
struck  
swatted  
thrashed  
thumped  
walloped  
whacked

## **hugged**

clung  
cradled  
cuddled  
embraced  
enfolded  
enveloped  
grasped  
nestled  
pressed  
squeezed

## **hung**

attached  
dangled

draped  
drooped  
fastened  
hooked  
suspended

## **hurt**

abused  
ached  
afflicted  
ailed  
belted  
bit  
bruised  
burned  
cut  
disabled  
flailed  
flogged  
harmed  
impaired  
injured  
kicked  
lacerated  
lashed  
mauled  
nipped  
pierced  
pinched  
pricked  
pummeled  
punched  
punctured  
slapped  
slugged  
squeezed  
stabbed  
stung  
throbbled  
tore  
whacked  
whipped  
wounded  
wrung

## **jumped**

bobbed  
bounced  
bucked  
cantered  
dove  
hopped  
hurdled  
jerked  
leapt  
loped  
lunged  
lurched  
parachuted  
plummeted  
skipped  
sprang  
tripped  
vaulted

## **laughed**

burst  
chortled  
chuckled  
giggled  
guffawed  
hee-hawed  
howled  
roared  
screamed  
shrieked  
simpered  
snickered  
sniggered  
snorted  
tee-heed  
tittered  
whooped

## **left**

abandoned  
departed  
deserted

disappeared  
ditched  
eloped  
embarked  
escaped  
exited  
fled  
scrammed  
split  
vacated  
vanished  
withdrew

## **made**

assembled  
built  
constructed  
created  
fashioned  
forged  
formed  
framed  
invented  
manufactured  
produced  
shaped

## **mended**

cured  
doctored  
fixed  
healed  
improved  
patched  
rebuilt  
reconstructed  
recovered  
recuperated  
remedied  
repaired  
restored  
revised

# ...even more Action Verbs

## **opened**

bore  
burst  
cleared  
exposed  
jimmied  
revealed  
ruptured  
slit  
spread  
unblocked  
unbolted  
uncorked  
uncovered  
unfastened  
unfurled  
unlatched  
unlocked  
unsealed  
unwrapped  
vented  
ventilated

## **planned**

arranged  
brainstormed  
devised  
engineered  
formulated  
mapped  
organized  
outlined  
plotted  
schemed  
sketched  
strategized

## **played**

cavorted  
clowned  
frolicked  
reveled  
romped

## **pulled**

dragged  
hailed  
heaved  
jerked  
lugged  
plucked  
schlepped  
towed  
tugged  
wrenched  
yanked

## **pushed**

bulldozed  
crowded  
elbowed  
gored  
impelled  
jammed  
jostled  
launched  
muscled  
nudged  
poked  
railroaded  
rammed  
shouldered  
shoved  
squashed  
squeezed  
squished  
steamrolled  
thrust

## **reached**

extended  
grasped  
lunged  
seized  
strained  
stretched

## **repaired**

cured  
doctored  
fixed  
healed  
improved  
mended  
patched  
rebuilt  
reconstructed  
recovered  
recuperated  
restored  
revised

## **ripped**

clawed  
frayed  
gashed  
shredded  
slashed  
slit  
split  
tore

## **shook**

chattered  
jarred  
jerked  
jogged  
joggled  
jolted

quaked  
quivered  
rattled  
reeled  
rocked  
ruffled  
shimmered  
shimmied  
shivered  
shuddered  
swayed  
tottered  
trembled  
tremored  
twittered  
vibrated  
waggled  
waved  
wobbled

## **shrunk**

compressed  
condensed  
constricted  
contracted  
decreased  
deflated  
diminished  
dwindled  
lessened  
narrowed  
reduced  
shortened  
shriveled  
waned  
wasted  
weakened  
withered  
wrinkled

## **skipped**

bounded  
cantered  
flitted  
hippety-hopped  
hopped  
leapt  
pranced  
scampered  
scooted  
skedaddled  
skittered  
sprang

## **slept**

catnapped  
crashed  
dozed  
dreamed  
hibernated  
napped  
reposed  
retired  
slumbered  
snoozed  
snored

## **smiled**

beamed  
grinned  
simpered  
smirked

## **spun**

gyrated  
pirouetted  
reeled  
revolved  
rotated  
twirled

# ...even more Action Verbs

## **spun** (cont'd)

twisted  
wheeled  
whirled

## **stayed**

continued  
lodged  
remained  
sojourned  
visited

## **stole**

abducted  
blackmailed  
burglarized  
cheated  
defrauded  
embezzled  
filched  
fleeced  
kidnapped  
lifted  
looted  
pilfered  
pillaged  
pinched  
pirated  
plagiarized  
plundered  
poached  
purloined  
ransacked  
shoplifted  
snatched  
stripped  
swindled  
swiped  
thieved

## **stopped**

barred  
blocked  
ceased  
discontinued  
disrupted  
finished  
halted  
hindered  
impeded  
intercepted  
obstructed  
paused  
quit  
refrained  
restrained  
stalled  
terminated

## **suffered**

ached  
agonized  
ailed  
endured  
grieved  
strained  
tormented  
wincing  
writhed

## **surrounded**

besieged  
circled  
encased  
encircled  
enclosed  
encompassed  
engulfed  
inundated  
wrapped

## **swam**

bathed  
dove  
floated  
glided  
paddled  
raced  
stroked  
submerged  
waded

## **swung**

dangled  
flapped  
oscillated  
pivoted  
rocked  
swayed  
swerved  
swiveled  
twirled  
whirled

## **threw**

catapulted  
chucked  
fired  
flung  
hurled  
launched  
lobbed  
pegged  
pelted  
pitched  
scattered  
showered  
tossed  
volleyed

## **took**

abducted  
bagged  
borrowed  
captured  
clutched  
commandeered  
confiscated  
filched  
grabbed  
hooked  
lifted  
nabbed  
pinched  
plucked  
pocketed  
seized  
snagged  
snatched  
stole  
swiped

## **trapped**

ambushed  
beguiled  
cornered  
corralled  
deceived  
duped  
ensnared  
entangled  
entrapped  
fooled

## **tricked**


bamboozled  
beguiled  
charmed

cheated  
conned  
confused  
deceived  
defrauded  
duped  
fooled  
hoodwinked  
misled  
outwitted  
scammed  
shafted  
swindled  
trapped

## **twisted**

coiled  
contorted  
corkscrewed  
curled  
entwined  
intertwined  
spiraled  
spun  
squirmed  
swiveled  
turned  
twined  
twirled  
weaved  
wiggled  
wound  
wrapped  
wrenched  
wriggled  
writhed  
wrung  
zigzagged

# “Said” Synonyms

 *Z-Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** “I don’t want to go,” she said.  
*Interesting:* “I don’t want to go!” she **whimpered**.

<p><b>agreed</b> acknowledged assented conceded concurred consented seconded</p> <p><b>animal sounds</b> barked chirped croaked crowed growled hissed howled panted roared snarled squawked squeaked yapped yelped</p> <p><b>answered</b> reacted remarked replied responded retorted returned</p> <p><b>argued</b> bickered contended contested contradicted countered debated denied disagreed disputed</p>	<p>objected opposed protested quarreled quibbled squabbled</p> <p><b>asked</b> challenged grilled inquired interrogated pried probed queried questioned quizzed requested</p> <p><b>begged</b> beseeched entreated implored petitioned pleaded prayed pressed requested urged</p> <p><b>blamed</b> accused alleged attacked charged claimed rebuked reproved</p> <p><b>chatted</b> babbled blabbed</p>	<p>chitchatted gabbed gibbered gossiped jabbered prattled</p> <p><b>commented</b> mentioned noted opined remarked stated</p> <p><b>complained</b> bemoaned bewailed fretted fussed gripped groaned grumbled moaned pouted sniveled whimpered whined yammered</p> <p><b>cried</b> bawled bemoaned bewailed blubbered grieved groaned howled lamented moaned mourned</p>	<p>sighed sniffled sniveled sobbed wailed wept whimpered yammered yowled</p> <p><b>criticized</b> blasted chastised chided disapproved lambasted nitpicked reprimanded zinged</p> <p><b>declared</b> announced asserted broadcasted confirmed informed proclaimed professed</p> <p><b>exaggerated</b> boasted bragged distorted elaborated embellished enhanced expanded expounded fabricated inflated</p>	<p>romanticized overstated</p> <p><b>explained</b> clarified described detailed illustrated interpreted paraphrased summarized translated</p> <p><b>gasp</b> choked gulped heaved panted snorted wheezed</p> <p><b>imitated</b> aped echoed impersonated mimicked mocked parodied parroted</p> <p><b>interrupted</b> blurted inserted interfered interjected</p> <p><b>intimidated</b> badgered browbeat bullied coerced harassed hounded</p>
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# “Said” Synonyms

## **intimidated**

(cont'd)

taunted  
threatened

## **joked**

bantered  
jested  
jived  
joshed  
kidded

## **laughed**

cackled  
chortled  
chuckled  
giggled  
howled  
roared  
snickered  
sniggered  
snorted

## **nagged**

badgered  
hounded  
needled  
pestered  
prodded

## **observed**

detected  
discerned  
discovered  
noted  
noticed  
perceived

## **ordered**

charged  
commanded  
decreed  
demanded  
directed  
instructed

## **persuaded**

cajoled  
coaxed  
convinced  
exhorted  
insisted  
urged  
wheedled  
wooded

## **predicted**

conjectured  
forecasted  
foretold  
guessed  
inferred  
presumed  
prognosticated  
prophesied  
speculated  
supposed  
surmised

## **promised**

agreed  
assured  
ensured  
guaranteed  
pledged  
swore  
vowed

## **raged**

boiled  
bristled  
foamed  
fumed  
ranted  
raved  
spit  
stormed

## **rejoiced**

celebrated  
cheered  
exulted  
hooted  
jubilated  
reveled

## **remembered**

brooded  
recalled  
recollected  
reflected  
reminisced

## **retold**

narrated  
quoted  
recited  
recounted  
repeated

## **revealed**

announced  
confessed  
confided  
declared  
disclosed  
divulged  
expressed  
proclaimed  
professed  
uttered

## **sang**

chanted  
chirped  
crooned  
hummed  
serenaded  
trilled

twittered  
warbled  
yodeled

## **scolded**

berated  
chastened  
chided  
criticized  
lectured  
rebuked  
reprimanded  
reproached

## **screamed**

bawled  
bellowed  
blared  
blurted  
cried  
exclaimed  
hollered  
roared  
shouted  
shrieked  
shrilled  
squealed  
wailed  
yelled  
yowled

## **stuttered**

faltered  
hesitated  
sputtered  
stammered  
stumbled  
trembled

## **suggested**

advised  
hinted  
implied

inferred  
insinuated  
intimated  
offered  
proposed  
recommended

## **tattled**

blabbed  
blurted  
gossiped  
leaked  
rumored  
snitched  
spilled  
squeaked

## **teased**

bugged  
harassed  
mocked  
needled  
pestered  
razzed  
ribbed  
roasted  
taunted


## **warned**

admonished  
advised  
alerted  
cautioned  
exhorted  
forewarned

## **whispered**

breathed  
buzzed  
hissed  
mumbled  
murmured  
muttered

# -ly Adverbs

 *Boring:* He backed away from the growling dog.  
*Interesting:* Slowly and carefully, he backed away from the growling dog.

<p><b>angrily</b> bitterly coldly furiously indignantly sharply</p> <p><b>apparently</b> allegedly evidently incidentally seemingly</p> <p><b>beautifully</b> alluringly charmingly daintily delicately elegantly enchantingly exquisitely glamorously gracefully majestically radiantly stunningly</p> <p><b>bravely</b> adventurously audaciously boldly courageously daringly fearlessly gallantly heroically valiantly</p>	<p><b>calmly</b> harmoniously peacefully placidly serenely soothingly tranquilly</p> <p><b>carefully</b> attentively cautiously conscientiously gingerly mindfully prudently vigilantly warily watchfully</p> <p><b>casually</b> aimlessly informally nonchalantly offhandedly unceremoniously</p> <p><b>certainly</b> clearly naturally obviously surely undeniably undoubtedly unmistakably unquestionably</p>	<p><b>clumsily</b> absentmindedly accidentally awkwardly carelessly ungracefully</p> <p><b>continually</b> ceaselessly constantly continuously endlessly eternally incessantly perpetually persistently relentlessly</p> <p><b>creatively</b> artistically cleverly imaginatively</p> <p><b>cruelly</b> brutally malevolently maliciously ruthlessly savagely viciously wickedly</p> <p><b>dramatically</b> charismatically emotionally melodramatically suspensefully theatrically</p>	<p><b>easily</b> coolly effortlessly freely simply skillfully smoothly</p> <p><b>enthusiastically</b> ardently eagerly energetically excitedly passionately zealously</p> <p><b>fearfully</b> alarmedly apprehensively cowardly frantically tremblingly</p> <p><b>finally</b> conclusively decisively eventually lastly ultimately</p> <p><b>gently</b> delicately faintly meekly mildly softly sweetly tenderly</p>	<p><b>happily</b> cheerfully contentedly ecstatically joyfully merrily</p> <p><b>hesitantly</b> dubiously falteringly haltingly indecisively irresolutely reluctantly skeptically tentatively uncertainly</p> <p><b>honestly</b> admittedly frankly genuinely sincerely truly truthfully veraciously</p> <p><b>humorously</b> amusingly comically jokingly playfully</p> <p><b>initially</b> firstly originally primarily</p>
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# -ly Adverbs

## **intelligently**

brilliantly  
cleverly  
ingeniously

## **kindly**

affectionately  
compassionately  
fondly  
graciously  
lovingly  
sweetly

## **loudly**

boisterously  
clamorously  
deafeningly  
noisily  
piercingly  
riotously  
shrilly  
thunderously  
uproariously

## **luckily**

auspiciously  
favorably  
fortunately  
happily  
opportunistically  
prosperously

## **nervously**

anxiously  
apprehensively  
restlessly  
shakily  
skittishly  
worriedly

## **occasionally**

irregularly  
periodically  
sporadically

## **politely**

affably  
cordially  
courteously  
graciously  
respectfully  
tactfully

## **powerfully**

forcefully  
intensely  
mightily  
strongly  
vigorously  
violently

## **pridefully**

arrogantly  
boastfully  
egotistically  
haughtily  
pompously  
smugly

## **purposely**

consciously  
deliberately  
intentionally  
knowingly  
voluntarily  
willfully

## **quickly**

briskly  
busily  
hastily  
hurriedly  
impatiently  
speedily  
swiftly

## **quietly**

breathlessly  
gently  
inconspicuously  
noiselessly  
silently

## **regularly**

commonly  
faithfully  
frequently  
generally  
habitually  
invariably  
normally  
ordinarily  
periodically  
repeatedly  
steadily  
systematically  
tirelessly  
typically  
unchangingly  
usually

## **rudely**

churlishly  
disrespectfully  
harshly  
impertinently  
impolitely  
impudently  
inconsiderately  
insolently

## **sadly**

cheerlessly  
dejectedly  
despondently  
dismally  
dolefully  
mournfully  
sorrowfully

tragically  
unfortunately  
unhappily  
wistfully

## **shyly**

bashfully  
humbly  
modestly  
sheepishly  
skittishly  
timidly

## **slowly**

casually  
eventually  
gradually  
hesitantly  
lazily  
patiently  
sluggishly

## **sneakily**

cunningly  
deviously  
secretly  
slyly  
stealthily  
surreptitiously  
suspiciously

## **strangely**

magically  
miraculously  
mysteriously  
oddly  
supernaturally

## **stupidly**

foolishly  
indolently  
mindlessly  
moronically  
obnoxiously

## **suddenly**

abruptly  
immediately  
instantly  
startlingly  
unexpectedly

## **surprisingly**

actually  
amazingly  
astonishingly  
incredibly  
interestingly  
ironically  
remarkably  
shockingly  
unbelievably  
unknowingly  
unpredictably

## **tiredly**

exhaustedly  
drowsily  
sleepily  
weakly  
wearily

## **wildly**

ferociously  
fiercely  
passionately  
recklessly  
roughly  
viciously

## **wisely**

discerningly  
judiciously  
perceptively  
prudently  
sagaciously

# Colors and Shapes



*Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* The blue sky had some white clouds.  
*Interesting:* In the azure sky dangled marshmallow white clouds.

## Black

ebony	crow	jet	onyx	shadowy
charcoal	dingy	licorice	pitch	slate
clouded	dusky	murky	raven	soot
coal	ink	obsidian	sable	starless

## Blue

aqua	blueberry	electric	porcelain	steel
aquamarine	cerulean	indigo	robin's egg	teal
azure	cobalt	navy	royal	turquoise
baby blue	delft	midnight	sapphire	ultramarine
beryl	denim	peacock	sky	violet

## Brown

almond	chestnut	hazel	nutmeg	sorrel
amber	chocolate	henna	oak	tan
auburn	cinnamon	khaki	ochre	tawny
beige	cocoa	mahogany	pine	teak
brick	coffee	mud	russet	terra-cotta
bronze	copper	muddy	rust	toast
buff	fawn	mulch	sandy	umber
burnt sienna	ginger	nut	sepia	walnut

## Gray

ashen	drab	iron	oyster	slate
clouded	dun	lead	pearly	smoky
dapple	dusky	leaden	peppery	somber
dingy	grizzled	metallic	shaded	steel
dove	heather	mousy	silvery	stone

## Green

apple	emerald	kelly	moss	sage
aquamarine	evergreen	leafy	olive	sea
avocado	fir	lime	pea	spinach
beryl	forest	lush	peacock	verdure
celery	grassy	malachite	pine	viridian
chartreuse	jade	mint	pistachio	willow



# Colors and Shapes

## Orange

apricot	copper	gold	pumpkin	tangerine
brass	coral	ochre	salmon	terra-cotta
bronze	flame	peach	sandy	titian
burnt sienna	glowing	persimmon	shrimp	topaz

## Purple

amethyst	heliotrope	maroon	pansy	royal
bluish red	lavender	mauve	plum	violaceous
fuchsia	lilac	mulberry	pomegranate	violet
grape	magenta	orchid	puce	wine

## Red

blood	cherry	flushed	pink	russet
bloodshot	claret	fuchsia	raspberry	rust
blush	coral	garnet	rose	salmon
brick	cranberry	geranium	rosy	scarlet
burgundy	crimson	magenta	rouge	strawberry
candy-apple	fiery	maroon	ruby	tomato
cardinal	flame	persimmon	ruddy	wine

## White

alabaster	chalky	immaculate	oyster	powdery
ashen	cream	ivory	pale	pure
blanched	fair	light	pallid	silvery
bleached	frosted	marble	pasty	snowy
blond	frosty	marshmallow	pearl	spotless
bloodless	ghostly	milky	platinum	stainless

## Yellow

amber	buff	chartreuse	lemon	straw
apricot	butter	chrome	mustard	sunny
aureate	buttercup	citron	ochre	tan
beige	butterscotch	cream	orange	tangerine
bleached	canary	gold	saffron	tawny
blond	champagne	golden	sand	topaz

## Shapes

angular	conical	hexagonal	proportional	spherical
circular	cylindrical	octagonal	rectangular	spiraled
concave	elliptical	oval	squared	triangular

# Sight



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The cave was dark.  
**Interesting:** A shadowy gloom settled in the pitch-black cave.

## To See

admire	gaze	mark	peer	spot
examine	glance	note	perceive	spy
eye	glare	notice	recognize	stare
eyeball	glimpse	observe	review	survey
focus	glower	ogle	scan	view
gape	goggle	peek	search	watch
gawk	inspect	peep	sight	witness

## A Sight

appearance	hallucination	impression	reflection	view
display	illusion	mirage	scene	vision
exhibition	image	picture	spectacle	vista

## Clear

apparent	crystalline	lucid	transparent	unobscured
cloudless	distinct	translucent	unclouded	visible

## Light

alight	illuminated	lit	moonlit	sunny
fluorescent	incandescent	lucent	phosphorescent	sunshiny
golden	lighted	luminous	starry	well-lit

## Dark

black	inky	nebulous	pitch-dark	sooty
blackish	lightless	obscure	pitchy	sunless
blackness	muddy	pitch-black	somber	unlit

# Sight

## Bright

ablaze	beaming	brilliant	glaring	radiant
aglow	blazing	flaming	glowing	vivid

## Dim

bleary	dusky	fuzzy	murky	shadowy
blurred	faded	gloomy	opaque	shady
cloudy	faint	gray	overcast	tarnished
dreary	foggy	lackluster	pale	unclear

## Shiny

burnished	glassy	glistening	polished	shining
crystal	gleaming	glittering	satiny	silvery
dazzling	glimmering	glossy	sheeny	sparkling
flickering	glinting	jeweled	shimmering	twinkling

## Dull

ashen	drab	hazy	mousy	opaque
cloudy	dreary	indistinct	muddy	plain
colorless	dusky	lackluster	murky	subdued
dead	faded	low	muted	toned-down
dismal	flat	matte	obscure	unlit

# Sound



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** Suddenly, a sound came from the basement.

**Interesting:** Suddenly, an ear-piercing shriek came from the basement.

## To Hear

catch	detect	eavesdrop	listen	overhear
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## A Sound

din	noise	note	resonance	tone
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## Pleasant

harmonic	mellifluous	melodious	sonorous	symphonious
harmonious	melodic	rhythmical	symphonic	tuneful

## Unpleasant

boisterous	ear-piercing	grating	piercing	rowdy
clamorous	ear-popping	monotonous	raucous	shrill
deafening	ear-splitting	noisy	riotous	whiny

## Loud

bang	clamor	crackle	scream	stomp
bawl	clang	crash	screech	thud
bellow	clank	holler	shriek	thump
blare	clap	pop	slam	whack
blast	clash	racket	slurp	wham
boom	clatter	rattle	smash	whir
burst	crack	rumble	snore	whoop

## Angry

bark	grumble	jeer	shout	snort
bellow	hiss	roar	snap	sputter
growl	holler	scream	snarl	yell

## Scared

cry	scream	shriek	stammer	whimper
gasp	screech	squall	stutter	yelp

# Sound

## Sad

bawl	groan	sigh	sob	weep
blubber	howl	sniffle	squall	whimper
cry	moan	snivel	wail	yowl

## Happy

cackle	giggle	laugh	snicker	tee-hee
chortle	guffaw	roar	snigger	titter
chuckle	howl	shriek	squeal	whoop

## Quiet

bubble	creak	hum	pitter-patter	swish
buzz	drone	hush	plink	tick
calm	fizz	mumble	rustle	tinkle
click	gurgle	murmur	sigh	twitter
clink	hiss	mutter	sizzle	whisper

## Silent

breathless	inaudible	muted	quiet	speechless
hushed	mouthed	noiseless	soundless	still

## Musical

bang	clang	peal	strum	trill
beat	clink	plunk	thump	twang
boom	hum	rattle	tinkle	warble
chant	jingle	ring	toll	whistle
chime	jangle	rumble	toot	yodel

## Animal

bark	cluck	honk	purr	squeal
bleat	coo	hoot	quack	twitter
bray	croak	howl	roar	whimper
buzz	crow	meow	screech	whinny
cackle	gobble	mew	snarl	yap
caw	growl	moo	snort	yelp
cheep	grunt	neigh	squawk	yip
chirp	hiss	peep	squeak	yowl

# Smell



*Z-Z-Z-Z Zzzzzz* *Boring:* The milk smelled bad.  
*Interesting:* The stench of the curdled milk turned his stomach.

## To Smell

inhale                  scent                  sniff                  snuff                  whiff

## A Smell

aroma                  fragrance                  odor                  perfume                  scent

## No Smell

deodorized                  odorless                  scentless                  unseasoned                  unscented

## Good Smelling

appealing                  enticing                  luscious                  rich                  tempting  
delightful                  exquisite                  mouthwatering                  savory                  well-seasoned  
divine                  heavenly                  pleasing                  tantalizing                  zestful

## Fresh

antiseptic                  earthy                  minty                  pure                  starchy  
clean                  fragrant                  new                  sanitary                  sterile  
crisp                  laundered                  piney                  soapy                  washed

## Sweet

aromatic                  citrus                  fragrant                  perfumed                  sweet-scented  
buttery                  cloying                  fruity                  rich                  sweet-smelling  
candied                  coconut                  honeyed                  saccharine                  toothsome  
chocolaty                  flowery                  nectarous                  sugary                  vanilla

# Smell

## Bad Smelling

detestable	loathsome	odious	raunchy	sickening
disgusting	malodorous	offensive	reeking	stinky
fishy	nasty	putrid	repellent	tainted
foul	nauseating	rancid	repugnant	unappealing
gross	noxious	rank	repulsive	unpleasant

## Burnt

burning	fumy	gaseous	smoky	sooty
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## Rotten

curdled	fetid	musty	polluted	repulsive
damp	foul	noisome	putrefied	rotted
dank	gross	noxious	putrid	ruined
decayed	mildewed	offensive	rancid	spoiled
decomposed	moldy	overripe	rank	tainted

## Sharp

acrid	biting	harsh	piercing	salty
astringent	cutting	intense	pungent	vinegary

## Sour

acidic	fermented	soured	tart	unwholesome
curdled	rancid	sourish	turned	vinegary

## Spicy

cinnamic	gingery	piquant	spiced	zesty
distinctive	peppery	seasoned	spirited	zippy

# Taste



*Z-Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The cake tasted good.  
**Interesting:** He savored each heavenly mouthful of the rich, chocolaty cake.

## To Taste

lick	sample	savor	sip	slurp
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## A Taste

bite	morsel	mouthful	nibble	sample
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## Tasteless

bland	flat	insipid	unflavored	unseasoned
dull	flavorless	tasteless	unsavory	vapid

## Good-tasting

appetizing	divine	mouthwatering	rich	tasty
delectable	flavorful	palatable	savory	well-prepared
delicious	flavorsome	pleasant	scrumptious	well-seasoned
delish	luscious	pleasing	tantalizing	zestful

## Bad-tasting

bland	flat	offensive	repulsive	undesirable
burnt	flavorless	oily	savorless	unpalatable
detestable	gross	rancid	sickening	unpleasant
disgusting	insipid	rank	tainted	unripe
distasteful	loathsome	raunchy	tasteless	unsavory
dull	nasty	repellent	unappealing	unseasoned
fishy	nauseating	repugnant	unappetizing	vapid



# Taste

## Sweet

buttery	cinnamic	fruity	saccharine	sweetened
candied	citrus	honeyed	sugar-coated	syrupy
candy-coated	cloying	nectarous	sugared	toothsome
chocolaty	coconut	rich	sugary	vanilla

## Sour

acidic	briny	fermented	soured	tart
biting	curdled	rancid	sourish	vinegary

## Rotten

curdled	foul	offensive	rancid	rotted
decomposed	gross	overripe	rank	spoiled
fetid	moldy	putrid	repulsive	tainted

## Sharp

acidic	biting	garlicky	metallic	tangy
acrid	bitter	harsh	pungent	tart
astringent	burning	medicinal	stinging	vinegary

## Spicy

biting	fiery	peppery	seasoned	spirited
cinnamic	gingery	piquant	snappy	zesty
distinctive	hot	racy	spiced	zippy

## Salty

acrid	brackish	highly flavored	pungent	well-flavored
alkaline	briny	over-salted	salted	well-seasoned

# Touch



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The blanket felt soft.

**Interesting:** I snuggled up in the cozy, satin blanket.

## To Touch

brush	frisk	hug	poke	sting
caress	grab	itch	rub	strike
cuddle	grasp	nudge	scratch	stroke
dab	graze	pat	smooth	tag
embrace	handle	paw	snuggle	tap
feel	hit	pinch	squeeze	tickle

## Hot

baking	feverish	lukewarm	searing	sweltering
blazing	fiery	ovenlike	sizzling	tepid
blistering	flaming	roasting	steamy	tropical
boiling	flushed	scalding	summery	torrid
burning	humid	scorching	sweaty	warm

## Cold

arctic	chilly	frigid	numbing	snowy
biting	cool	frosty	piercing	stinging
bitter	crisp	frozen	polar	tingling
bleak	cutting	glacial	shivering	trembling
brisk	freezing	icy	shuddering	wintry

## Dry

arid	bare	droughty	powdery	stale
baked	barren	dusty	sapped	thirsty
bald	dehydrated	parched	shriveled	torrid

## Wet

damp	drizzling	muggy	slushy	soggy
dank	foggy	pouring	snowy	sopping
dewy	humid	rainy	soaked	steamy
drenched	misty	showery	soaking	teary
dripping	moist	slippery	sodden	watery

## Sticky

clammy	gluey	gummy	pasty	syrupey
gloppy	gooey	gunky	sweaty	tacky

# Touch

## Smooth

creamy	fluid	glossy	silky	slippery
flat	flush	polished	sleek	velvety
flowing	glassy	satiny	slick	waxy

## Rough

bearded	choppy	jagged	ragged	scratchy
brambly	coarse	knotty	ridged	stony
bristly	craggy	leathery	rocky	tangled
bumpy	grainy	lumpy	rugged	unshaven
bushy	gritty	matted	sandy	wiry
chapped	hairy	prickly	scraggy	woolly

## Sharp

barbed	knife-edged	pronged	ridged	spiny
briery	needlelike	ragged	serrated	splintery
horned	peaked	raggedy	spiked	tapered
jagged	pointy	razor-sharp	spiky	thorny

## Hard

callous	iron	packed	solid	thick
dense	leathery	rigid	stiff	tough
firm	metal	rocky	stony	wooden

## Soft

comfy	doughy	foamy	powdery	squashy
cozy	downy	furry	satiny	squishy
creamy	feathery	fuzzy	silky	tender
cushy	fluffy	mushy	spongy	velvety

## Heavy

beefy	fleshy	loaded	pulpy	thick
bulky	hefty	massive	stout	weighted
chunky	leaden	meaty	swollen	weighty

## Light

airy	dainty	ethereal	fluffy	powdery
bubbly	downy	feathery	frothy	sheer

# Conditions



*ZZZZZZ Boring:* The room was a mess.  
*Interesting:* The disheveled room was littered with beat-up toys and filthy clothes.

## Messy

bedraggled	disorderly	grubby	raunchy	sloppy
botchy	disorganized	ill-kempt	ruffled	slovenly
careless	filthy	lax	rumpled	uncombed
cluttered	foul	littered	shabby	unkempt
dirty	frowzy	muddled	slack	untidy
disheveled	frumpy	mussy	slapdash	wrinkled
disordered	grimy	nasty	slipshod	wrinkly

## Neat

chipper	groomed	orderly	snug	trim
clean-cut	immaculate	organized	spick-and-span	uncluttered
combed	kempt	prim	spruce	unwrinkled
detailed	meticulous	shipshape	tidy	well-groomed
fastidious	natty	snappy	trig	well-pressed

## Old

abandoned	dated	historical	primordial	tattered
aged	decayed	moth-eaten	raggedy	threadbare
ancient	decrepit	neglected	rickety	time-worn
antiquated	deteriorated	old-fashioned	run-down	traditional
antique	dilapidated	outdated	rusty	used
archaic	discarded	outmoded	scruffy	worm-eaten
broken-down	dowdy	out-of-date	shabby	worn
cast-off	faded	outworn	shoddy	worn-out
crusty	hackneyed	primitive	stale	wrinkly

## New

advanced	fresh	newfound	stylish	untouched
brand-new	latest	new-sprung	trendy	untrodden
contemporary	modern	novel	ultramodern	unused
current	modernistic	original	unfamiliar	up-to-date
cutting edge	new-fashioned	recent	unspoiled	youthful

# Conditions

## Dirty

black	greasy	mucky	smear	stained
contaminated	grimy	muddy	smudged	sullied
cruddy	grubby	murky	soiled	sully
dingy	grungy	nasty	soily	tainted
draggled	icky	polluted	sooty	tarnished
dreggy	impure	raunchy	sordid	unclean
dungy	mangy	scummy	splotched	unsanitary
dusty	mildewed	scuzzy	spotted	unsightly
filthy	moldy	slimy	squalid	unswept

## Clean

blank	fresh	sanitary	squeaky	unsoiled
bright	hygienic	shining	stainless	unsullied
cleansed	immaculate	shiny	taintless	untainted
clear	impeccable	sparkling	tidy	untarnished
dirtless	laundered	spick-and-span	unblemished	washed
flawless	pure	spotless	unpolluted	white

## Damaged

beat-up	cracked	dismembered	mutilated	shivered
bent	crippled	flawed	peeling	shot
blemished	crumbled	fractured	pulverized	shredded
broken	demolished	fragmented	ripped	slivered
burnt	destroyed	impaired	ruptured	smashed
burst	dinged	injured	separated	split
busted	discolored	mangled	severed	tattered
collapsed	disintegrated	marred	shattered	wrecked

## Undamaged

complete	mint	secure	steady	unimpaired
entire	perfect	set	unblemished	uninjured
faultless	permanent	settled	unbroken	unmarked
firm	plenary	shipshape	uncut	unmarred
fixed	preserved	solid	undefiled	unruffled
flawless	replete	sound	undivided	unscathed
full	rooted	stable	unharm	untouched
intact	safe	steadfast	unified	whole



# Hair



*Interesting:* ~~Z-Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:~~ She had pretty hair.  
Long, flowing locks of strawberry blonde hair curled down her back.

## Hair

cut	locks	mop	tendrils	tufts
fuzz	mane	strands	tresses	wisps

## Condition

bouncy	flaky	groomed	shiny	stringy
clean	flowing	messy	silky	tangled
coarse	fluffy	neat	sleek	thick
dingy	flyaway	oily	smooth	thin
drab	frizzy	puffy	soft	tidy
dry	glistening	raggedy	springy	trimmed
dull	glossy	ratty	straggly	wiry
fine	grimy	shaggy	straw-like	unkempt

## Length

buzzed	cropped	mid-length	shaved	shoulder-length
chin-length	long	receding	short	waist-length

## Style

afro	cowlick	kinky	pinned	stiff
bangs	crimped	knotted	pleated	straight
bobbed	curled	layered	ponytail	teased
bowl cut	curly	nappy	ringslets	tussled
braided	feathered	mohawk	shaved	twisted
bun	flattop	permed	slicked	uneven
buzz	gelled	pigtail	spiked	wavy

## Color

amber	chestnut	flaxen	platinum	straw
ash-blonde	coal black	frosted	raven	strawberry blonde
auburn	copper	golden	red	streaked
black	dark	gray	russet	tawny
bleached	dirty blonde	highlighted	sandy blonde	towheaded
blond	fair	jet black	silver	washed out
bronze	fake	light	silvery	white
brunette	fiery red	pale	snowy white	yellow

# Face



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** He had an unusual face.  
**Interesting:** He had droopy eyes, pointy ears, and a crooked nose.

## Cheeks

bony	chubby	full	hollow	round
chipmunk	dimpled	high	puffy	sunken

## Chin

dimpled	double	long	pointy	square
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## Ears

elephant	elf	floppy	pointy	shell-like
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## Eyebrows

arched	bushy	high	penciled-in	thin
broad	defined	narrow	thick	wide

## Eyelashes

dark	full	long	short	thick
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## Eyes

almond-shaped	bright	droopy	puffy	slit
beady	bug	narrow	round	squinty
bloodshot	cat	oval	slanted	wide

## Facial Hair

beard	clean-shaven	mustache	scruffy	sideburns
bristles	goatee	scratchy	shaven	whiskers

## Forehead

broad	flat	high	long	pronounced
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# Face

## Lips

cracked	full	pouty	pursed	thin
fat	plump	puckered	supple	wide

## Mouth

crooked	gaping	open	slack-jawed	wide
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## Nose

blunt	button	flat	pug	straight
broad	crinkled	hooked	Roman	tiny
bulbous	crooked	long	ski jump	upturned
bumpy	delicate	pointy	slender	wide

## Nostrils

broad	flared	narrow	pointy	wide
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## Skin

aged	clear	healthy	pimple	spotchy
albino	cold	leathery	pockmarked	supple
ashen	dark	light	rosy	swarthy
ashy	dimpled	milky white	rough	tan
baby	fair	moley	ruddy	taut
blanched	flushed	oily	sallow	washed-out
bleached	freckled	old	scarred	weathered
blotchy	freckly	olive	sensitive	white
blushing	ghastly white	pale	sickly	wrinkled
bruised	ghostly white	pallid	smooth	wrinkly
clammy	glowing	pasty white	soft	youthful

## Teeth

bucked	chipped	crooked	pointy	straight
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# Character Traits



*Z-Z-Z-Z Zzzzzzz* *Definition:* The nurse was nice to her patient.

*Interpretation:* The tender and compassionate nurse never left her patient's side.

**bossy**  
aggressive  
controlling  
demanding  
domineering  
forceful  
intimidating  
overbearing  
tyrannical

**brave**  
adventurous  
audacious  
bold  
chivalrous  
courageous  
daring  
dauntless  
fearless  
gallant  
heroic  
knightly  
valiant  
valorous

**cowardly**  
fearful  
gutless  
passive  
spineless  
timid  
weak

**crazy**  
demented  
disturbed  
insane  
lunatic  
maniacal

**creative**  
artistic  
clever  
gifted  
imaginative

ingenious  
innovative  
inspired  
inventive  
original  
unique

**determined**  
driven  
persevering  
persistent  
steadfast

**dishonest**  
corrupt  
deceitful  
deceptive  
devious  
disingenuous  
untruthful

**disobedient**  
defiant  
insubordinate  
lawless  
rebellious  
undisciplined  
unmanageable  
unruly

**driven**  
industrious  
sedulous  
studious

**energetic**  
active  
animated  
enthusiastic  
high-spirited  
lively  
sprightly  
vivacious

**enthusiastic**  
ardent  
eager  
earnest  
excited  
exuberant  
passionate  
zealous

**evil**  
corrupt  
fiendish  
hateful  
immoral  
monstrous  
sinful  
sinister  
vile  
wicked

**forgiving**  
gracious  
magnanimous  
merciful

**friendly**  
affable  
amiable  
amicable  
congenial  
convivial  
cordial  
genial  
good-natured  
warm

**fun**  
amusing  
convivial  
enjoyable  
entertaining  
exciting  
imaginative  
lively  
playful

**funny**  
amusing  
comical  
entertaining  
hilarious  
humorous  
hysterical  
witty

**generous**  
benevolent  
charitable  
magnanimous  
noble  
selfless  
self-sacrificing  
unselfish

**hard-working**  
ambitious  
assiduous  
diligent

**honest**  
honorable  
forthright  
sincere  
straightforward  
trustworthy  
truthful

**hostile**  
aggressive  
antagonistic  
argumentative  
belligerent  
combative  
contentious  
pugnacious  
quarrelsome

**humble**  
meek  
modest  
self-effacing

**irresponsible**  
careless  
flighty  
forgetful  
inattentive  
undependable  
unreliable  
untrustworthy

**jealous**  
covetous  
envious  
green-eyed  
possessive

**kind**  
caring  
compassionate  
considerate  
courteous  
gentle  
gracious  
loving  
soft-hearted  
sweet  
sympathetic  
tender  
thoughtful  
warm

**lazy**  
heavy-footed  
idle  
indolent  
languorous  
slothful  
slow-moving  
unmotivated

**loyal**  
committed  
dedicated  
devoted  
faithful  
steadfast

# Character Traits

## mean

barbarous  
brutal  
cold-hearted  
cruel  
heartless  
insensitive  
malevolent  
malicious  
ruthless  
uncaring  
unkind  
vicious

## moral

chaste  
ethical  
noble  
principled  
pure  
righteous  
virtuous

## negative

critical  
cynical  
defeated  
hopeless  
pessimistic  
sarcastic

## outgoing

convivial  
extroverted  
gregarious  
personable  
sociable  
social  
unreserved

## polite

affable  
civil  
cordial  
courteous  
gracious  
respectful

## positive

cheerful  
hopeful  
idealistic  
optimistic  
sanguine

## practical

level-headed  
logical  
pragmatic  
rational  
realistic  
reasonable  
sensible

## prideful

arrogant  
boastful  
conceited  
egotistical  
haughty  
narcissistic  
pompous  
smug  
vain

## respectable

admirable  
honorable  
laudable  
praiseworthy  
reputable  
upright

## responsible

conscientious  
dependable  
dutiful  
mature  
reliable  
trustworthy

## revengeful

malicious  
punitive  
retaliatory  
spiteful  
vengeful  
vindictive

## rude

boorish  
churlish  
discourteous  
disrespectful  
impertinent  
impolite  
impudent  
inconsiderate  
insolent  
surlly  
uncivil

## selfish

egocentric  
greedy  
miserly  
parsimonious  
self-centered  
stingy

## serious

austere  
humorless  
intense  
solemn  
somber  
stern

## silly

childish  
clownish  
immature  
nonsensical  
senseless

## smart

bookish  
bright  
brilliant  
clever  
ingenious  
intellectual  
intelligent  
knowledgeable  
quick-witted  
sharp

## strange

awkward  
bizarre  
eccentric  
mysterious  
odd  
outlandish  
peculiar  
unusual  
weird

## stubborn

hardheaded  
headstrong  
obstinate  
persistent  
stiff-necked  
strong-willed  
willful

## stupid

brainless  
foolish  
idiotic  
imbecilic  
mindless  
moronic  
simple  
unintelligent  
witless

## talented

accomplished  
adept  
artistic  
brilliant  
experienced  
expert  
gifted  
ingenious  
skilled  
skillful

## tricky

conniving  
crafty  
cunning  
devious

mischievous  
scheming  
shrewd  
sly  
sneaky  
wily

## uncaring

apathetic  
callous  
cold  
heartless  
indifferent  
insensitive  
unsympathetic

## understanding

accepting  
empathetic  
perceptive  
sensitive  
sympathetic

## unforgiving

begrudging  
bitter  
embittered  
merciless  
resentful

## unsocial

introverted  
reclusive  
reserved  
solitary  
standoffish  
unsociable  
withdrawn

## wise

discerning  
enlightened  
insightful  
judicious  
perceptive  
prudent  
sagacious

# Emotions / Feelings



*ZZZZ Boring:* The singer on the stage was scared.  
*Interesting:* Trembling in terror, the panic-stricken singer stood frozen on stage.

<p><b>afraid</b>            aghast            alarmed            apprehensive            blanched            cowardly            cowed            daunted            disheartened            dismayed            distressed            faint-hearted            fearful            frightened            frozen            horrified            intimidated            panicked            panicky            panic-stricken            petrified            rattled            scared            shaken            shocked            spooked            startled            stunned            terrified            terror-stricken            trembling</p>	<p><b>angry</b>            boiling            cross            enraged            fiery            fuming            furious            heated            incensed            indignant            inflamed            infuriated            irate            maddened            outraged            provoked            rabid            raging            riled            vexed            wrathful</p> <p><b>annoyed</b>            agitated            bothered            crabby            cranky            disgruntled            displeased            dissatisfied            frustrated            grouchy            grumpy</p>	<p>ill-tempered            irritable            irritated            moody            peeved            peevish            petulant            sulky            sullen            temperamental            vexed</p> <p><b>ashamed</b>            apologetic            contrite            disappointed            mournful            penitent            regretful            remorseful            repentant            rueful            sorrowful            sorry</p> <p><b>calm</b>            harmonious            mellow            peaceful            placid            quiescent            quiet            relaxed</p>	<p>reposeful            restful            serene            soothing            still            stormless            tranquil            undisturbed            unruffled            waveless            windless</p> <p><b>confused</b>            abashed            addled            baffled            befuddled            bewildered            confounded            dazed            disconcerted            disoriented            distracted            dizzy            flummoxed            flustered            muddled            mystified            perplexed            puzzled            stumped            unglued</p>	<p><b>disappointed</b>            disconcerted            discontented            discouraged            disenchanting            disgruntled            disheartened            disillusioned            dissatisfied            downhearted            embittered            frustrated            resentful            saddened            thwarted            ungratified            unsatisfied            vanquished</p> <p><b>embarrassed</b>            abashed            ashamed            chagrined            disconcerted            disgraced            humbled            humiliated            mortified            shamed</p> <p><b>excited</b>            agitated            animated</p>
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# Emotions / Feelings

aroused  
awakened  
charged  
delighted  
eager  
emotional  
enthusiastic  
feverish  
hyper  
hysterical  
jumpy  
lively  
passionate  
stirred  
thrilled  
wild

## happy

blessed  
blissful  
blithe  
cheerful  
cheery  
chipper  
chirpy  
content  
contented  
convivial  
delighted  
ecstatic  
elated  
exultant  
gleeful  
gratified  
jolly  
joyful

joyous  
jubilant  
lighthearted  
merry  
mirthful  
overjoyed  
peppy  
perky  
playful  
pleasant  
pleased  
sunny  
thrilled  
upbeat

## lonely

disconsolate  
forlorn  
forsaken  
isolated  
lonesome  
reclusive  
rejected  
secluded  
solitary  
unsocial  
withdrawn

## nervous

anxious  
apprehensive  
concerned  
distressed  
flustered  
high-strung  
jittery

jumpy  
nervy  
restless  
skittish  
tense  
uneasy  
uptight  
worried

## proud

contented  
dignified  
gratified  
honored  
pleased  
satisfied

## sad

bereaved  
brokenhearted  
crestfallen  
crushed  
dejected  
depressed  
despairing  
despondent  
devastated  
disconsolate  
dismal  
doleful  
downcast  
forlorn  
gloomy  
glum  
grief-stricken  
grieved

heartbroken  
heartsick  
heartsore  
heavy-hearted  
inconsolable  
languishing  
low-spirited  
lugubrious  
melancholy  
miserable  
morose  
mournful  
somber  
sorrowful  
troubled  
weeping  
wistful

## shy

bashful  
cautious  
coy  
demure  
humble  
introverted  
meek  
modest  
mousy  
quiet  
rabbity  
reserved  
reticent  
self-conscious  
sheepish  
skittish  
timid  
unassertive

## surprised

agape  
aghast  
amazed  
astonished  
astounded  
awestruck  
dumbfounded  
dumbstruck  
flabbergasted  
floored  
overwhelmed  
shocked  
speechless  
staggered  
startled  
stunned  
thrown  
thunderstruck

## upset

agitated  
bothered  
disconcerted  
dismayed  
disquieted  
distraught  
distressed  
disturbed  
stressed  
troubled  
unglued  
unsettled  
worried

# Big / Small



*Z-Z-Z-Z Zzzz Boring:* The cat was big and the mouse was small.  
*Interesting:* The monstrously oversized cat towered over the teensy mouse.

Big		Small	
ample	major	baby	piddling
behemoth	mammoth	bite-sized	pint-sized
broad	massive	bitty	pocket-sized
bulky	mighty	cramped	puny
burly	mountainous	diminutive	runty
capacious	monstrous	dwarfish	scanty
colossal	monumental	inconsequential	scrubby
considerable	overgrown	inconsiderable	short
enormous	oversized	insignificant	shrimp
expansive	prodigious	light	skimpy
extensive	roomy	limited	slight
giant	sizable	little	smallish
gigantic	spacious	meager	stubby
grand	staggering	microscopic	stunted
great	stupendous	mini	teeny
hefty	substantial	miniature	teensy
huge	titanic	miniscule	tiny
hulking	towering	minor	toy
humongous	tremendous	minute	trifling
husky	unrestricted	modest	trivial
immeasurable	vast	narrow	truncated
immense	voluminous	paltry	undersized
jumbo	whopping	petite	wee

# Beautiful / Ugly



*Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* The haircut was ugly.  
*Interesting:* The frightful haircut bordered on grotesque.

Beautiful		Ugly	
adorable	grand	abnormal	monstrous
alluring	handsome	appalling	nasty
appealing	ideal	awful	nauseating
attractive	impressive	bad-looking	obnoxious
beckoning	interesting	beastly	odd
becoming	inviting	bizarre	outlandish
bewitching	lovely	creepy	piggish
breathtaking	luring	deformed	plain
captivating	magnificent	disagreeable	repellent
charming	majestic	disfigured	repugnant
classy	marvelous	disgusting	repulsive
comely	mesmeric	distasteful	revolting
cute	pleasant	distorted	shocking
dazzling	pleasing	eerie	sickening
delightful	pretty	foul	sordid
divine	radiant	freakish	sorry
elegant	ravishing	frightful	strange
enchancing	refined	grisly	terrible
engaging	resplendent	gross	unalluring
enthraling	shapely	grotesque	unappealing
enticing	sightly	grungy	unattractive
excellent	splendid	hag-like	uncomely
exquisite	statuesque	hard-featured	undesirable
fair	stunning	hideous	uninviting
fascinating	sublime	homely	unnatural
fetching	superb	horrid	unpleasant
fine	tantalizing	horrifying	unseemly
glamorous	well-formed	ill-favored	unsightly
good-looking	well-groomed	inelegant	vile
gorgeous	winsome	loathsome	weird
graceful	wonderful	misshapen	wretched

# Good / Bad



*Z-Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* The weather was bad, but we had a good day.  
*Interesting:* Despite the foul weather, we still had a sensational day at the park.

Good		Bad	
admirable	mind-blowing	abominable	horrifying
amazing	miraculous	appalling	loathsome
astonishing	notable	atrocious	lousy
astounding	noteworthy	awful	lurid
awe-inspiring	outrageous	base	mean
awesome	outstanding	beastly	nasty
beautiful	overwhelming	contemptible	nauseating
breathtaking	phenomenal	cursed	obnoxious
brilliant	prodigious	deplorable	obscene
commendable	remarkable	despicable	odious
distinguished	sensational	detestable	offensive
excellent	spectacular	disagreeable	raunchy
exceptional	splendid	disgusting	repellent
exciting	stirring	dreadful	reprehensible
extraordinary	striking	foul	repugnant
fabulous	stunning	frightening	repulsive
fantastic	stupendous	frightful	revolting
fine	superb	ghastly	scandalous
glorious	superior	grim	scary
illustrious	terrific	grisly	shameful
impressive	thrilling	gruesome	shocking
incredible	unbelievable	hateful	sickening
inspiring	unreal	heinous	terrible
legendary	unrivaled	hideous	terrifying
lofty	valuable	horrendous	unpleasant
magnificent	wonderful	horrible	vile
marvelous	wondrous	horrid	wretched
memorable	abhorrent	horrific	



# Interesting / Boring



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The book was boring.

**Interesting:** The dull, monotonous book left me feeling uninspired.

Interesting	Boring
<p>absorbing alluring amusing appealing arresting captivating charismatic compelling curious delightful enchanting engaging engrossing entertaining enthraling entrancing exceptional exciting exotic fascinating gripping impressive intriguing provocative refreshing riveting spellbinding stimulating stirring striking thought-provoking unusual</p>	<p>colorless commonplace dead drab dreary drudging dull flat ho-hum humdrum insipid interminable lackluster lifeless monotone monotonous platitudinous repetitious routine spiritless stale stereotypical stodgy tedious tiresome trite unanimated unexciting uninspired uninteresting vapid wearisome</p>

# A Little / A Lot



*Z-Z-Z-Z-Z* *Boring:* The night sky had a lot of stars.

*Interesting:* The stars were numberless in the night sky.

## A Little

a few  
a handful of  
a scattering of  
a sprinkling of  
inconsequential  
inconsiderable  
infrequent  
insufficient  
limited  
meager  
minor  
minute  
negligible  
occasional  
paltry  
petty  
piddling  
rare  
scant  
scanty  
scarce  
scarcely any  
skimpy  
slight  
slim  
some  
sparse

## A Lot

abundant  
bounteous  
bountiful  
copious  
countless  
endless  
immeasurable  
incalculable  
infinite  
innumerable  
limitless  
many  
multifarious  
multiple  
multitudinous  
myriad  
numberless  
numerous  
plentiful  
plenty of  
scads of  
several  
swarming with  
teeming with  
uncountable  
unlimited  
voluminous

# Easy / Hard



*Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* The homework was easy, but the test was hard.  
*Interesting:* The homework was manageable, but the test was complicated.


## Easy

accessible  
apparent  
basic  
clear-cut  
direct  
effortless  
elemental  
elementary  
evident  
facile  
manageable  
obvious  
painless  
plain  
routine  
self-explanatory  
simple  
smooth  
straightforward  
uncomplicated  
undemanding  
understandable  
uninvolved  
workable

## Hard


arduous  
backbreaking  
bothersome  
burdensome  
challenging  
complex  
complicated  
confusing  
demanding  
difficult  
exacting  
exhausting  
formidable  
grueling  
involved  
laborious  
painful  
perplexing  
problematic  
puzzling  
strenuous  
troublesome  
trying  
unclear

# Compare / Contrast

 ~~Z-Z-Z-Z~~ *Boring:* Tennis is played on a court, and baseball is played on a field.  
*Interesting:* Tennis is played on a court, whereas baseball is played on a field.

Comparing Words	Contrasting Words
<p>alike</p> <p>at first glance</p> <p>besides</p> <p>both</p> <p>by comparison</p> <p>comparable</p> <p>compare</p> <p>compared to</p> <p>in common</p> <p>in comparison to</p> <p>in the same manner</p> <p>in the same way</p> <p>just as</p> <p>like</p> <p>likewise</p> <p>on the one hand</p> <p>resemble</p> <p>resemblance</p> <p>share</p> <p>similarities</p> <p>similarity</p> <p>similarly</p> <p>similar to</p> <p>the same</p> <p>the same as</p>	<p>although</p> <p>at first glance</p> <p>but</p> <p>by contrast</p> <p>contrast</p> <p>conversely</p> <p>despite</p> <p>differ</p> <p>differences</p> <p>different</p> <p>different from</p> <p>even though</p> <p>however</p> <p>in contrast</p> <p>instead</p> <p>on the contrary</p> <p>on the other hand</p> <p>opposite</p> <p>unlike</p> <p>variations</p> <p>varied</p> <p>vary</p> <p>whereas</p> <p>while</p> <p>yet</p>

# Be Specific! How to avoid using the word "thing."

 *Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* Frogs and toads have many things in common.  
*Interesting:* Frogs and toads have many characteristics in common.

<p><b>achievement</b>            accomplishment            advancement            contribution            feat            improvement            progress            success</p> <p><b>belief</b>            conviction            feeling            idea            notion            opinion            position            theory            understanding            view</p> <p><b>chance</b>            opportunity            possibility            prospect</p> <p><b>characteristic</b>            aspect            attribute            distinction            feature            peculiarity            property            quality            trademark            trait</p> <p><b>choice</b>            alternative            decision            option            possibility            preference            selection</p>	<p><b>effect</b>            aftermath            consequence            outcome            ramification            result</p> <p><b>effort</b>            action            attempt            endeavor            step            stride            undertaking</p> <p><b>enjoyment</b>            activity            amusement            diversion            entertainment            hobby            interest            pastime            recreation</p> <p><b>experience</b>            adventure            affair            encounter            enterprise            escapade            event            exploration            exposure            involvement            ordeal            participation            undertaking            venture</p> <p><b>goal</b>            aim            ambition</p>	<p>ideal            intention            objective            plan</p> <p><b>issue</b>            argument            controversy            focus            question            subject            theme            topic</p> <p><b>item</b>            article            belonging            object            particular            possession            product</p> <p><b>part</b>            aspect            component            detail            element            factor            feature            particular            section            segment</p> <p><b>place</b>            area            locale            location            scene            setting            spot            site            vicinity</p>	<p><b>problem</b>            challenge            concern            conflict            difficulty            dilemma            disadvantage            frustration            hardship            obstacle            predicament            quagmire            quandary            struggle            trial            trouble            weakness</p> <p><b>proof</b>            data            evidence            fact            statistic            testimony            verification</p> <p><b>reason</b>            argument            explanation            justification            motive            pretext            rationale</p> <p><b>situation</b>            circumstance            episode            event            happening            incident            issue            matter            occasion            occurrence</p>	<p><b>talent</b>            ability            capability            genius            gift            power            skill            strength</p> <p><b>type</b>            category            description            example            form            genre            group            kind            model            pattern            sort            variety</p> <p><b>value</b>            advantage            benefit            importance            meaning            merit            purpose            significance            use            worth</p> <p><b>way</b>            approach            course            direction            manner            method            mode            style            system            technique</p>
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# 50 Boring Words and Phrases to Avoid

Don't get stuck in old writing habits! When you find yourself about to use these tired words and phrases, search for more specific and lively ones!

<b>Boring Word/Phrase</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Boring Word/Phrase</b>	<b>Page</b>
A little . . . . .	44	Fast . . . . .	7
A lot . . . . .	44	Found . . . . .	10
Asked . . . . .	14	Loud . . . . .	22
Ate . . . . .	8	Made . . . . .	11
Bad . . . . .	25, 26, 42	New . . . . .	30
Beautiful . . . . .	41	Old . . . . .	30
Big . . . . .	40	Orange . . . . .	19
Black . . . . .	18	Purple . . . . .	19
Blue . . . . .	18	Red . . . . .	19
Brown . . . . .	18	Sad . . . . .	39
Boring . . . . .	43	See . . . . .	20
Clean . . . . .	31	Said . . . . .	14–15
Cold . . . . .	28	Slow . . . . .	7
Dirty . . . . .	31	Short . . . . .	32
Dry . . . . .	28	Small . . . . .	40
Easy . . . . .	45	Smell . . . . .	24
Good . . . . .	24, 26, 42	Sound . . . . .	22
Green . . . . .	18	Sweet . . . . .	24, 27
Fun . . . . .	36	Tall . . . . .	32
Happy . . . . .	23, 39	Thing . . . . .	47
Hard . . . . .	29, 45	To end this paper . . . . .	5
Hear . . . . .	22	Ugly . . . . .	41
Hot . . . . .	28	Wet . . . . .	28
Interesting . . . . .	43	White . . . . .	19
Kind . . . . .	36	Yellow . . . . .	19

# My Own List of Interesting Words

Instead of...

**moved,** I could use

(see page 7)

**said,** I could use

(see page 14)

**big,** I could use

(see page 40)

**small,** I could use

(see page 40)

**beautiful,** I could use

(see page 41)

**ugly,** I could use

(see page 41)

**good,** I could use

(see page 42)

**bad,** I could use

(see page 42)

**interesting,** I could use

(see page 43)

**boring,** I could use

(see page 43)