

Blizzard bag #1

All English 12 classes

On your own paper, complete each of the exercises below.

Targets:

1. Students will be able to recognize vague word choice and choose more effective words to convey meaning.
2. Students will be able to use sensory details to communicate an idea.

Choosing the Right Words

Name: _____

Effective speakers and writers choose words that are simple and precise. Practice choosing the right words by completing the exercise below.

1. Revise the following complicated sentences so that they are easier to understand.
 - a. Extinguish the lighting at the time at which you exit the premises.

 - b. Simply consuming a single fruit (for example, an apple) once during each twenty-four-hour period will make possible avoidance of the necessity of visitations with a physician.

 - c. Physical attractiveness rests solely in the exterior portions of the anatomy and therefore may be said to have more depth than the epidermis.

 - d. Every individual is, in his or her inception, indistinguishable from every other individual with regard to equality.

2. For each sentence, write four different precise words that could be used in place of the vague one in italics.

a. The players *walked* onto the field.

b. Maria *said* something as she was leaving the room.

c. The top of my dresser is covered with *stuff*.

3. Effective speakers and writers use specific words to communicate more exact meanings that they are trying to express. For each general word, write six specific terms that can replace each. Then write one sentence using one of the specific words.

a. Street

b. Shoes

c. Trees

d. Sports

e. Vehicles

4. Sensory description makes a message lively and clear. Describe each of the following by using words and phrases that relate to as many of the six senses as possible.

a. A puppy –

b. A new car –

c. A school gym –

d. A casserole –

e. A summer night –

5. Effective speakers and writers use language to emphasize their ideas – to make their ideas memorable in the reader’s and listener’s mind. Vividly emphasize each of the following ideas in one expressive sentence by using description, comparison, repetition, restatement or example.

Example – the fatigue of a grocery store clerk

Each carton that I lifted and unloaded seemed slightly heavier than the last until, at last, it seemed as though each was a shipment of bowling balls.

a. The blaze of a burning building

b. School hallways between periods

c. The crowd after a last second win