

BANISH BORING WORDS!

Leilen Shelton

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Teaching
Resources

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BANISH BORING WORDS!

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Introduction

During my first year as a middle school teacher, I quickly discovered that my students had wonderful ideas for their writing, but struggled to express them clearly and descriptively. They recognized strong and specific words, but couldn't always retrieve them on their own, and using a thesaurus was time-consuming. What they needed was a fast and easy way to find the “right” words for their writing.

I developed a list of action verbs, which led to a list of more specific movement words. Other word lists followed, and I soon had enough lists to make a small booklet for each student to use. I was thrilled with the remarkable improvements in their writing and in their confidence. They were so proud of their ability to choose their words so precisely and powerfully.

The booklet circulated to other teachers, and it wasn't long before almost every English teacher at my school was using the booklet. Within a year's time, the booklet began showing up with the students I privately tutored—students who attended *other* schools in my district. Apparently, I wasn't the only teacher searching for ways to empower students with strong, specific words. I'm excited to share the culmination of that effort with you in this book.

Banish Boring Words—a collection of word lists containing dozens of options for frequently used words and phrases—supports all types of writing. In some ways, it is like a condensed thesaurus. The purpose of this book is to provide students with shortcuts to finding descriptive words that will enable them to write with greater clarity and sophistication. It is my hope that this book helps students achieve their full potential as writers.

How to Use This Book

The word lists are arranged by topics so students can flip quickly between related pages, and example sentences are provided under the title of each word list to demonstrate how each page should be used.

Some suggestions for using this book flexibly in the classroom include:

- Making copies of the word lists for each student to use during independent writing time.
- Providing copies of the word lists for groups of students to use as a resource during writing workshop.
- Photocopying one word list or section at a time when introducing a new lesson. For example, you might use the Character Traits list (page 36) during a lesson on character development.
- Copying word lists for vocabulary-building exercises, including games and test preparation for English language learners.
- Making poster-size copies of the lists to serve as “word walls” in the classroom—visible and accessible resources for interesting words.

For more information, visit my Web site at www.leilenshelton.com.

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...



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
copers	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
---------	-----------	-------------	----------	----------

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-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	stamped	edged	plodded	swayed
erupted	plunged	streaked	floated	plopped	tiptoed
flailed	pounced	swiped	flowed	poked	toddled
fled	quickened	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	scooted	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 **Boring:** The hungry students ate their lunches.

Interesting: The hungry students scarfed down sandwiches and devoured cookies.

<p>arrived alighted appeared disembarked dismounted entered landed reached</p> <p>ate attacked chowed consumed devoured feasted gobbled gorged grazed inhaled munched nibbled noshed pecked picked porked scarfed snacked wolfed</p> <p>attacked ambushed assaulted besieged bombarded charged combated infiltrated invaded jumped mugged</p>	<p>overwhelmed pounced raided rushed stormed struck</p> <p>began activated commenced incited initiated instigated instituted introduced launched originated pioneered started</p> <p>broke busted cracked crushed demolished fractured severed shattered smashed snapped split tore</p> <p>bumped banged bounced butted collided jarred jerked</p>	<p>jolted jostled knocked pounded rattled shook slammed smacked thudded thumped thwacked</p> <p>caught apprehended bagged busted captured hooked lassoed nabbed nailed netted plucked snagged snared snatched</p> <p>changed adapted altered converted evolved metamorphosed modified mutated reformed remodeled renovated reorganized restyled</p>	<p>revolutionized transfigured transformed transposed</p> <p>chased charged drove followed hounded hunted pursued rushed sped tracked trailed</p> <p>cheered applauded clapped hailed praised rooted saluted yelled</p> <p>clapped applauded cheered patted slapped</p> <p>climbed ascended clambered crawled escalated mounted rose scaled soared</p>
--	---	---	--

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

hailed
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
hauled
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
winced
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



Boring: “I don’t want to go,” she said.

Interesting: “I don’t want to go!” she whimpered.

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

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



Z-Z-Z-Z **Boring:** He backed away from the growling dog.

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

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

To Smell

inhale	scent	sniff	snuff	whiff
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A Smell

aroma	fragrance	odor	perfume	scent
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No Smell

deodorized	odorless	scentless	unseasoned	unscented
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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

acid	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	syrupey
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
acid	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

acid	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	syrupy
gloppy	goosey	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



Z-Z-Z-Z-Z 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

Body



Z-Z-Z-Z-Z Boring: The ballerina was thin.
Interesting: Petite and slender, the ballerina twirled like a dainty flower.

Thin

angular	frail	malnourished	scrawny	slight
bony	gangly	narrow	skeletal	slim
emaciated	gaunt	petite	skin-and-bone	stick
dainty	lanky	puny	skinny	twiggy
ethereal	lean	rawboned	slender	underweight

Heavy

beefy	burly	heavy-set	plump	round
big-boned	chubby	husky	plumpish	shapeless
bloated	chunky	lumpy	portly	solid
brawny	dense	massive	potbellied	stocky
broad	elephantine	obese	pudgy	stout
bulging	full-bodied	oversized	robust	thick
bulky	gargantuan	paunchy	rotund	wide

Short

compact	little	pint-sized	stunted	tiny
dwarfed	low	runt	stubby	undersized
dwarfish	miniature	squat	stumpy	wee

Tall

alpine	gangly	lanky	skyscraping	stretched
beanstalk	giant	lofty	stick	towering

Weak

decrepit	effeminate	feeble	fragile	puny
delicate	emaciated	flaccid	frail	sickly

Strong

beefy	burly	muscular	robust	solid
brawny	firm	powerful	rugged	strapping

Fit

athletic	healthy	shapely	toned	trim
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Hair



Boring: She had pretty hair.
Interesting: 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	ringlets	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-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
---------	--------	------	-------------	------

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
-------	--------	--------	--------	------

Skin

aged	clear	healthy	pimple	spotty
albino	cold	leathery	pockmarked	supple
ashen	dark	light	rosy	swarthy
ashy	dimpled	milky white	rough	tan
baby	fair	mole	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 **Boring:** The nurse was nice to her patient.

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

<p>bossy aggressive controlling demanding domineering forceful intimidating overbearing tyrannical</p> <p>brave adventurous audacious bold chivalrous courageous daring dauntless fearless gallant heroic knightly valiant valorous</p> <p>cowardly fearful gutless passive spineless timid weak</p> <p>crazy demented disturbed insane lunatic maniacal</p> <p>creative artistic clever gifted imaginative</p>	<p>ingenious innovative inspired inventive original unique</p> <p>determined driven persevering persistent steadfast</p> <p>dishonest corrupt deceitful deceptive devious disingenuous untruthful</p> <p>disobedient defiant insubordinate lawless rebellious undisciplined unmanageable unruly</p> <p>driven industrious sedulous studious</p> <p>energetic active animated enthusiastic high-spirited lively sprightly vivacious</p>	<p>enthusiastic ardent eager earnest excited exuberant passionate zealous</p> <p>evil corrupt fiendish hateful immoral monstrous sinful sinister vile wicked</p> <p>forgiving gracious magnanimous merciful</p> <p>friendly affable amiable amicable congenial convivial cordial genial good-natured warm</p> <p>fun amusing convivial enjoyable entertaining exciting imaginative lively playful</p>	<p>funny amusing comical entertaining hilarious humorous hysterical witty</p> <p>generous benevolent charitable magnanimous noble selfless self-sacrificing unselfish</p> <p>hard-working ambitious assiduous diligent</p> <p>honest honorable forthright sincere straightforward trustworthy truthful</p> <p>hostile aggressive antagonistic argumentative belligerent combative contentious pugnacious quarrelsome</p> <p>humble meek modest self-effacing</p>	<p>irresponsible careless flighty forgetful inattentive undependable unreliable untrustworthy</p> <p>jealous covetous envious green-eyed possessive</p> <p>kind caring compassionate considerate courteous gentle gracious loving soft-hearted sweet sympathetic tender thoughtful warm</p> <p>lazy heavy-footed idle indolent languorous slothful slow-moving unmotivated</p> <p>loyal committed dedicated devoted faithful steadfast</p>
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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



Z-Z-Z-Z-Z Boring: The singer on the stage was scared.

Interesting: Trembling in terror, the panic-stricken singer stood frozen on stage.

<p>afraid 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>angry boiling cross enraged fiery fuming furious heated incensed indignant inflamed infuriated irate maddened outraged provoked rabid raging riled vexed wrathful</p> <p>annoyed agitated bothered crabby cranky disgruntled displeased dissatisfied frustrated grouchy grumpy</p>	<p>ill-tempered irritable irritated moody peeved peevisish petulant sullen temperamental vexed</p> <p>ashamed apologetic contrite disappointed mournful penitent regretful remorseful repentant rueful sorrowful sorry</p> <p>calm harmonious mellow peaceful placid quiescent quiet relaxed</p>	<p>reposeful restful serene soothing still stormless tranquil undisturbed unruffled waveless windless</p> <p>confused abashed addled baffled befuddled bewildered confounded dazed disconcerted disoriented distracted dizzy flummoxed flustered muddled mystified perplexed puzzled stumped unglued</p>	<p>disappointed disconcerted discontented discouraged disenchantd disgruntled disheartened disillusioned dissatisfied downhearted embittered frustrated resentful saddened thwarted ungratified unsatisfied vanquished</p> <p>embarrassed abashed ashamed chagrined disconcerted disgraced humbled humiliated mortified shamed</p> <p>excited agitated animated</p>
--	---	---	--	--

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-Z 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
 alluring
 appealing
 attractive
 beckoning
 becoming
 bewitching
 breathtaking
 captivating
 charming
 classy
 comely
 cute
 dazzling
 delightful
 divine
 elegant
 enchanting
 engaging
 enthralling
 enticing
 excellent
 exquisite
 fair
 fascinating
 fetching
 fine
 glamorous
 good-looking
 gorgeous
 graceful

grand
 handsome
 ideal
 impressive
 interesting
 inviting
 lovely
 luring
 magnificent
 majestic
 marvelous
 mesmeric
 pleasant
 pleasing
 pretty
 radiant
 ravishing
 refined
 resplendent
 shapely
 sightly
 splendid
 statuesque
 stunning
 sublime
 superb
 tantalizing
 well-formed
 well-groomed
 winsome
 wonderful

abnormal
 appalling
 awful
 bad-looking
 beastly
 bizarre
 creepy
 deformed
 disagreeable
 disfigured
 disgusting
 distasteful
 distorted
 eerie
 foul
 freakish
 frightful
 grisly
 gross
 grotesque
 grungy
 hag-like
 hard-featured
 hideous
 homely
 horrid
 horrifying
 ill-favored
 inelegant
 loathsome
 misshapen

monstrous
 nasty
 nauseating
 obnoxious
 odd
 outlandish
 piggish
 plain
 repellent
 repugnant
 repulsive
 revolting
 shocking
 sickening
 sordid
 sorry
 strange
 terrible
 unalluring
 unappealing
 unattractive
 uncomely
 undesirable
 uninviting
 unnatural
 unpleasant
 unseemly
 unsightly
 vile
 weird
 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
amazing	miraculous
astonishing	notable
astounding	noteworthy
awe-inspiring	outrageous
awesome	outstanding
beautiful	overwhelming
breathtaking	phenomenal
brilliant	prodigious
commendable	remarkable
distinguished	sensational
excellent	spectacular
exceptional	splendid
exciting	stirring
extraordinary	striking
fabulous	stunning
fantastic	stupendous
fine	superb
glorious	superior
illustrious	terrific
impressive	thrilling
incredible	unbelievable
inspiring	unreal
legendary	unrivaled
lofty	valuable
magnificent	wonderful
marvelous	wondrous
memorable	abhorrent

abominable	horrifying
appalling	loathsome
atrocious	lousy
awful	lurid
base	mean
beastly	nasty
contemptible	nauseating
cursed	obnoxious
deplorable	obscene
despicable	odious
detestable	offensive
disagreeable	raunchy
disgusting	repellent
dreadful	reprehensible
foul	repugnant
frightening	repulsive
frightful	revolting
ghastly	scandalous
grim	scary
grisly	shameful
gruesome	shocking
hateful	sickening
heinous	terrible
hideous	terrifying
horrendous	unpleasant
horrible	vile
horrid	wretched
horrific	

Interesting / Boring



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

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

Interesting

absorbing
 alluring
 amusing
 appealing
 arresting
 captivating
 charismatic
 compelling
 curious
 delightful
 enchanting
 engaging
 engrossing
 entertaining
 enthralling
 entrancing
 exceptional
 exciting
 exotic
 fascinating
 gripping
 impressive
 intriguing
 provocative
 refreshing
 riveting
 spellbinding
 stimulating
 stirring
 striking
 thought-provoking
 unusual

Boring

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

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-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-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

alike
at first glance
besides
both
by comparison
comparable
compare
compared to
in common
in comparison to
in the same manner
in the same way
just as
like
likewise
on the one hand
resemble
resemblance
share
similarities
similarity
similarly
similar to
the same
the same as

Contrasting Words

although
at first glance
but
by contrast
contrast
conversely
despite
differ
differences
different
different from
even though
however
in contrast
instead
on the contrary
on the other hand
opposite
unlike
variations
varied
vary
whereas
while
yet

Be Specific! How to avoid using the word “thing.”



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

Interesting: Frogs and toads have many characteristics in common.

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

Boring Word/Phrase	Page	Boring Word/Phrase	Page
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)