

Choosing Exact Words

Good writers **choose exact words** when they write. Strong verbs, precise nouns, and vivid adjectives make writing clear and lively.

Weak We went up the steep hill.

Strong We struggled up the steep hill.

Weak From the top, we saw a nice sunrise.

Strong From the rocky summit, we saw a dazzling sunrise.

Directions Replace an underlined word with a word or words from the box.

chocolate disastrous gasped hacked
stumbled tangled vines scraped devoured

Climbing the mountain was easy, but descending was (1) very bad. Jules and I (2) made a trail through thick bushes all morning. We tripped over (3) things. Sharp thorns (4) hurt our arms. At noon we (5) ate the last of our (6) food.

“I don’t think we’ll make it,” Jules (7) said.

It was dark when we finally (8) came out of the forest.

1. disastrous

5. devoured

2. hacked

6. chocolate

3. tangled vines

7. gasp

4. scraped

8. stumbled

Directions Write a paragraph about a great place to visit. Use exact words to describe the place and make people want to go there. **Possible answer:**

Cape Cod is a fabulous place for a vacation.

You can swim in the surf or bask in the sun

all day. I like to play volleyball on the warm

sand. At night Dad barbecues bluefish that he

caught that morning. They are delicious.