

Elaborating

When you **elaborate**, you write details to support your main idea. Use specific words to show what you are describing. Replace words and phrases such as *things* and *a lot of* with specific words.

No Those ants carried a lot of things.

Yes Those ants carried hundreds of cake crumbs.

Directions Choose words from the box to replace the underlined word or words in each sentence. Write the new sentence.

like a weightlifter picking up a huge barbell books and magazine articles
sugar crystals many times their weight a huge bread crumb ten times its size

1. Once I saw an ant carrying something.

Once I saw an ant carrying a huge bread crumb.

2. The bread crumb was very big.

The bread crumb was ten times its size.

3. Ants can lift heavy things.

Ants can lift sugar crystals many times their weight.

4. This is neat.

This is like a weightlifter picking up a huge barbell.

5. I want to read a lot of stuff about ants.

I want to read books and magazine articles about ants.

Directions Elaborate the following topic sentence by writing two details. Use specific words.

Ants come in many different colors and sizes.

Possible answer: Many ants are black or brown,
and some ants are rusty red like autumn leaves.

Ants may be the size of a pinhead, or they may
be more than an inch long.