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# Vivid Verbs

A verb expresses action or state of being. A **vivid verb** paints a mental picture for the reader. It has a more specific meaning than a common verb which is used all of the time.

Rather than using the common verb, walk, use a **vivid verb**.

## Common Verbs

The dog walked around the trees.

The man walked slowly through the neighborhood.

## Vivid Verbs

The dog **meandered** around the trees.

The man **strolled** through the neighborhood.

**A.** Write the letter of the definition of each vivid verb. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

- |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ meander | a. move with short, unsteady steps   |
| 2. ____ stroll  | b. walk leisurely                    |
| 3. ____ trudge  | c. wander                            |
| 4. ____ toddle  | d. walk with regular, measured steps |
| 5. ____ march   | e. walk in a tired manner            |

**B.** Write the letter of the vivid verb that matches the common verb.

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. ____ help   | a. sob       |
| 2. ____ want   | b. giggle    |
| 3. ____ buy    | c. glance    |
| 4. ____ listen | d. purchase  |
| 5. ____ run    | e. assist    |
| 6. ____ like   | f. construct |
| 7. ____ laugh  | g. crave     |
| 8. ____ cry    | h. overhear  |
| 9. ____ make   | i. admire    |
| 10. ____ look  | j. sprint    |

# Vivid Verbs, Strong Adjectives, and Specific Nouns

In the passage below, the underlined words are the general verbs, common adjectives, or general nouns which are often overused. Vivid verbs, strong adjectives, and specific nouns are more interesting words that paint a better picture in the reader's mind.

Rewrite the writing sample below replacing each general verb with a vivid verb, each common adjective with a strong adjective, and each general noun with a specific noun.

Tommy and I got off the last step of the big school bus. We went down the street to our house. Mom said we could play ball with our buddies after school. Peppy, our cute dog, made noise, and moved around when we opened the door. My brother and I got a snack from the kitchen and went to our bedroom to get our sneakers. The sneakers weren't in the closet. We looked under stuff with no luck. Then, we saw that all of our shoes were gone. I went into my parents' bedroom and looked in their closet. All of their shoes were gone too. Where was Peppy? Tommy saw a small paw sticking out from under the bed. We looked under our parents' bed. Peppy was sitting in a big pile of shoes.

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