

**BANISH  
BORING WORDS!**

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## **BANISH BORING WORDS!**

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# Transitions



*Z-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
copes	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
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## 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

 **Interesting:** The soccer player streaked past opponents and sprinted toward the goal.

## Fast

## Slow

biked  
bolted  
bounded  
burst  
bustled  
charged  
chased  
clamored  
crashed  
darted  
dashed  
dodged  
dove  
erupted  
flailed  
fled  
flew  
frisked  
galloped  
grabbed  
grasped  
gunned  
hastened  
hightailed  
hurried  
hustled  
jabbed  
jammed

jerked  
jolted  
jostled  
jumped  
kicked  
knocked  
lashed  
leapt  
lunged  
mauled  
nabbed  
outpaced  
outran  
plunged  
pounced  
quicken  
raced  
ran  
rode  
rushed  
scampered  
scooted  
scrambled  
scurried  
scuttled  
shot  
shoved  
skipped

skittered  
slammed  
slapped  
slashed  
sliced  
smacked  
smashed  
snapped  
snatched  
sped  
sprang  
sprinted  
stampeded  
streaked  
swiped  
swooped  
tackled  
tore  
trotted  
whirred  
whisked  
whizzed  
wrestled  
yanked  
zapped  
zigzagged  
zipped  
zoomed

ambled  
biked  
brewed  
coasted  
crawled  
crept  
cruised  
dawdled  
dillydallied  
dragged  
drifted  
dripped  
edged  
floated  
flowed  
frolicked  
froze  
gallivanted  
glided  
hiked  
hobbled  
inched  
jogged  
journeyed  
lagged  
limped  
lingered  
loafed  
lobbed

loitered  
lollygagged  
lounged  
lugged  
lumbered  
lurked  
marched  
meandered  
moped  
moseyed  
napped  
paced  
plodded  
plopped  
poked  
prowled  
relaxed  
roamed  
rocked  
roved  
sauntered  
shuffled  
skipped  
slinked  
slithered  
slogged  
slowed  
snuck  
sputtered

staggered  
stalked  
stamped  
stepped  
stomped  
straggled  
strayed  
strode  
stroked  
strolled  
strutted  
swaggered  
swayed  
tiptoed  
toddled  
trailed  
traipsed  
traversed  
treaded  
trekked  
tromped  
trooped  
trudged  
undulate  
ventured  
waited  
walked  
wallowed  
wandered

# Action Verbs



*Z-Z-Z-Z* **Boring:** The hungry students ate their lunches.  
**Interesting:** The hungry students scarfed down sandwiches and devoured cookies.

## arrived

alighted  
appeared  
disembarked  
dismounted  
entered  
landed  
reached

## ate

attacked  
chowed  
consumed  
devoured  
feasted  
gobbled  
gorged  
grazed  
inhaled  
munched  
nibbled  
noshed  
pecked  
picked  
porked  
scarfed  
snacked  
wolfed

## attacked

ambushed  
assaulted  
besieged  
bombarded  
charged  
combated  
infiltrated  
invaded  
jumped  
mugged

overwhelmed  
pounced  
raided  
rushed  
stormed  
struck

## began

activated  
commenced  
incited  
initiated  
instigated  
instituted  
introduced  
launched  
originated  
pioneered  
started

## broke

busted  
cracked  
crushed  
demolished  
fractured  
severed  
shattered  
smashed  
snapped  
split  
tore

## bumped

banged  
bounced  
butted  
collided  
jarred  
jerked

jolted  
jostled  
knocked  
pounded  
rattled  
shook  
slammed  
smacked  
thudded  
thumped  
thwacked

## caught

apprehended  
bagged  
busted  
captured  
hooked  
lassoed  
nabbed  
nailed  
netted  
plucked  
snagged  
snared  
snatched

## changed

adapted  
altered  
converted  
evolved  
metamorphosed  
modified  
mutated  
reformed  
remodeled  
renovated  
reorganized  
restyled

revolutionized  
transfigured  
transformed  
transposed

## chased

charged  
drove  
followed  
hounded  
hunted  
pursued  
rushed  
sped  
tracked  
trailed

## cheered

applauded  
clapped  
hailed  
praised  
rooted  
saluted  
yelled

## clapped

applauded  
cheered  
patted  
slapped

## climbed

ascended  
clambered  
crawled  
escalated  
mounted  
rose  
scaled  
soared

# 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

hauled  
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  
jousted  
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



*Z-Z-Z-Z Boring:* "I don't want to go," she said.  
*Interesting:* "I don't want to go!" she whimpered.

## **agreed**

acknowledged  
assented  
conceded  
concurred  
consented  
seconded

## **animal sounds**

barked  
chirped  
croaked  
crowed  
growled  
hissed  
howled  
panted  
roared  
snarled  
squawked  
squeaked  
yapped  
yelped

## **answered**

reacted  
remarked  
replied  
responded  
retorted  
returned

## **argued**

bickered  
contended  
contested  
contradicted  
countered  
debated  
denied  
disagreed  
disputed

objected  
opposed  
protested  
quarreled  
quibbled  
squabbled

## **asked**

challenged  
grilled  
inquired  
interrogated  
pried  
probed  
queried  
questioned  
quizzed  
requested

## **begged**

beseached  
entreated  
implored  
petitioned  
pleaded  
prayed  
pressed  
requested  
urged

## **blamed**

accused  
alleged  
attacked  
charged  
claimed  
rebuked  
reproved

## **chatted**

babbled  
blabbed

chitchatted  
gabbed  
gibbered  
gossiped  
jabbered  
prattled

## **commented**

mentioned  
noted  
opined  
remarked  
stated

## **complained**

bemoaned  
bewailed  
fretted  
fussed  
griped  
groaned  
grumbled  
moaned  
pouted  
sniveled  
whimpered  
whined  
yammered

## **cried**

bawled  
bemoaned  
bewailed  
blubbered  
grieved  
groaned  
howled  
lamented  
moaned  
mourned

sighed  
sniffled  
sniveled  
sobbed  
wailed  
wept  
whimpered  
yammered  
yowled

## **criticized**

blasted  
chastised  
chided  
disapproved  
lambasted  
nitpicked  
reprimanded  
zinged

## **declared**

announced  
asserted  
broadcasted  
confirmed  
informed  
proclaimed  
professed

## **exaggerated**

boasted  
bragged  
distorted  
elaborated  
embellished  
enhanced  
expanded  
expounded  
fabricated  
inflated

romanticized  
overstated

## **explained**

clarified  
described  
detailed  
illustrated  
interpreted  
paraphrased  
summarized  
translated

## **gasped**

choked  
gulped  
heaved  
panted  
snorted  
wheezed

## **imitated**

aped  
echoed  
impersonated  
mimicked  
mocked  
parodied  
parroted

## **interrupted**

blurted  
inserted  
interfered  
interjected

## **intimidated**

badgered  
browbeat  
bullied  
coerced  
harassed  
hounded

# "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  
wooded

## **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  
blurled  
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  
blurled  
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.

## **angrily**

bitterly  
coldly  
furiously  
indignantly  
sharply

## **apparently**

allegedly  
evidently  
incidentally  
seemingly

## **beautifully**

alluringly  
charmingly  
daintily  
delicately  
elegantly  
enchancingly  
exquisitely  
glamorously  
gracefully  
majestically  
radiantly  
stunningly

## **bravely**

adventurously  
audaciously  
boldly  
courageously  
daringly  
fearlessly  
gallantly  
heroically  
valiantly

## **calmly**

harmoniously  
peacefully  
placidly  
serenely  
soothingly  
tranquilly

## **carefully**

attentively  
cautiously  
conscientiously  
gingerly  
mindfully  
prudently  
vigilantly  
warily  
watchfully

## **casually**

aimlessly  
informally  
nonchalantly  
offhandedly  
unceremoniously

## **certainly**

clearly  
naturally  
obviously  
surely  
undeniably  
undoubtedly  
unmistakably  
unquestionably

## **clumsily**

absentmindedly  
accidentally  
awkwardly  
carelessly  
ungracefully

## **continually**

ceaselessly  
constantly  
continuously  
endlessly  
eternally  
incessantly  
perpetually  
persistently  
relentlessly

## **creatively**

artistically  
cleverly  
imaginatively

## **cruelly**

brutally  
malevolently  
maliciously  
ruthlessly  
savagely  
viciously  
wickedly

## **dramatically**

charismatically  
emotionally  
melodramatically  
suspensefully  
theatrically

## **easily**

coolly  
effortlessly  
freely  
simply  
skillfully  
smoothly

## **enthusiastically**

ardently  
eagerly  
energetically  
excitedly  
passionately  
zealously

## **fearfully**

alarmedly  
apprehensively  
cowardly  
frantically  
tremblingly

## **finally**

conclusively  
decisively  
eventually  
lastly  
ultimately

## **gently**

delicately  
faintly  
meekly  
mildly  
softly  
sweetly  
tenderly

## **happily**

cheerfully  
contentedly  
ecstatically  
joyfully  
merrily

## **hesitantly**

dubiously  
falteringly  
haltingly  
indecisively  
irresolutely  
reluctantly  
skeptically  
tentatively  
uncertainly

## **honestly**

admittedly  
frankly  
genuinely  
sincerely  
truly  
truthfully  
veraciously

## **humorously**

amusingly  
comically  
jokingly  
playfully

## **initially**

firstly  
originally  
primarily

# -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



*ZZZZZ 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



*ZZZZZ 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
-------	--------	-----------	--------	----------

## 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	gurggle	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

acrid	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



**Interesting:** He savored each heavenly mouthful of the rich, chocolaty cake.

**Boring:** The cake tasted good.

## To Taste

lick	sample	savor	sip	slurp
------	--------	-------	-----	-------

## A Taste

bite	morsel	mouthful	nibble	sample
------	--------	----------	--------	--------

## 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	syrupy
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
acrid	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

acrid	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	gooey	gunky	sweaty	tacky

# Touch

## Smooth

creamy	fluid	glossy	silky	slippery
flat	flush	polished	sleek	velvety
flowing	glassy	satin	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



*ZZZZZ 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	spotched	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 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	runty	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



**Interesting:** ~~Z-Z-Z-Z~~ **Boring:** She had pretty hair.  
**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
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## 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
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## Skin

aged	clear	healthy	pimple	spotchy
albino	cold	leathery	pockmarked	supple
ashen	dark	light	rosy	swarthy
ashy	dimpled	milky white	rough	tan
baby	fair	moley	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.

## bossy

aggressive  
controlling  
demanding  
domineering  
forceful  
intimidating  
overbearing  
tyrannical

## brave

adventurous  
audacious  
bold  
chivalrous  
courageous  
daring  
dauntless  
fearless  
gallant  
heroic  
knightly  
valiant  
valorous

## cowardly

fearful  
gutless  
passive  
spineless  
timid  
weak

## crazy

demented  
disturbed  
insane  
lunatic  
maniacal

## creative

artistic  
clever  
gifted  
imaginative

ingenious  
innovative  
inspired  
inventive  
original  
unique

## determined

driven  
persevering  
persistent  
steadfast

## dishonest

corrupt  
deceitful  
deceptive  
devious  
disingenuous  
untruthful

## disobedient

defiant  
insubordinate  
lawless  
rebellious  
undisciplined  
unmanageable  
unruly

## driven

industrious  
sedulous  
studious

## energetic

active  
animated  
enthusiastic  
high-spirited  
lively  
sprightly  
vivacious

## enthusiastic

ardent  
eager  
earnest  
excited  
exuberant  
passionate  
zealous

## evil

corrupt  
fiendish  
hateful  
immoral  
monstrous  
sinful  
sinister  
vile  
wicked

## forgiving

gracious  
magnanimous  
merciful

## friendly

affable  
amiable  
amicable  
congenial  
convivial  
cordial  
genial  
good-natured  
warm

## fun

amusing  
convivial  
enjoyable  
entertaining  
exciting  
imaginative  
lively  
playful

## funny

amusing  
comical  
entertaining  
hilarious  
humorous  
hysterical  
witty

## generous

benevolent  
charitable  
magnanimous  
noble  
selfless  
self-sacrificing  
unselfish

## hard-working

ambitious  
assiduous  
diligent

## honest

honorable  
forthright  
sincere  
straightforward  
trustworthy  
truthful

## hostile

aggressive  
antagonistic  
argumentative  
belligerent  
combative  
contentious  
pugnacious  
quarrelsome

## humble

meek  
modest  
self-effacing

## irresponsible

careless  
flighty  
forgetful  
inattentive  
undependable  
unreliable  
untrustworthy

## jealous

covetous  
envious  
green-eyed  
possessive

## kind

caring  
compassionate  
considerate  
courteous  
gentle  
gracious  
loving  
soft-hearted  
sweet  
sympathetic  
tender  
thoughtful  
warm

## lazy

heavy-footed  
idle  
indolent  
languorous  
slothful  
slow-moving  
unmotivated

## loyal

committed  
dedicated  
devoted  
faithful  
steadfast

# 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  
surly  
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 Boring:* The singer on the stage was scared.  
*Interesting:* Trembling in terror, the panic-stricken singer stood frozen on stage.

## 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

## angry

boiling  
cross  
enraged  
fiery  
fuming  
furious  
heated  
incensed  
indignant  
inflamed  
infuriated  
irate  
maddened  
outraged  
provoked  
rabid  
raging  
riled  
vexed  
wrathful

## annoyed

agitated  
bothered  
crabby  
cranky  
disgruntled  
displeased  
dissatisfied  
frustrated  
grouchy  
grumpy

## ill-tempered

irritable  
irritated  
moody  
peevish  
petulant  
sulky  
sullen  
temperamental  
vexed

## ashamed

apologetic  
contrite  
disappointed  
mournful  
penitent  
regretful  
remorseful  
repentant  
rueful  
sorrowful  
sorry

## calm

harmonious  
mellow  
peaceful  
placid  
quiescent  
quiet  
relaxed

## reposeful

restful  
serene  
soothing  
still  
stormless  
tranquil  
undisturbed  
unruffled  
waveless  
windless

## confused

abashed  
addled  
baffled  
befuddled  
bewildered  
confounded  
dazed  
disconcerted  
disoriented  
distracted  
dizzy  
flummoxed  
flustered  
muddled  
mystified  
perplexed  
puzzled  
stumped  
unglued

## disappointed

disconcerted  
discontented  
discouraged  
disenchanted  
disgruntled  
disheartened  
disillusioned  
dissatisfied  
downhearted  
embittered  
frustrated  
resentful  
saddened  
thwarted  
ungratified  
unsatisfied  
vanquished

## embarrassed

abashed  
ashamed  
chagrined  
disconcerted  
disgraced  
humbled  
humiliated  
mortified  
shamed

## excited

agitated  
animated

# 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 teeny 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
magnificent			

# 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  
enchancing  
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 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  
 amazing  
 astonishing  
 astounding  
 awe-inspiring  
 awesome  
 beautiful  
 breathtaking  
 brilliant  
 commendable  
 distinguished  
 excellent  
 exceptional  
 exciting  
 extraordinary  
 fabulous  
 fantastic  
 fine  
 glorious  
 illustrious  
 impressive  
 incredible  
 inspiring  
 legendary  
 lofty  
 magnificent  
 marvelous  
 memorable

mind-blowing  
 miraculous  
 notable  
 noteworthy  
 outrageous  
 outstanding  
 overwhelming  
 phenomenal  
 prodigious  
 remarkable  
 sensational  
 spectacular  
 splendid  
 stirring  
 striking  
 stunning  
 stupendous  
 superb  
 superior  
 terrific  
 thrilling  
 unbelievable  
 unreal  
 unrivaled  
 valuable  
 wonderful  
 wondrous  
 abhorrent

abominable  
 appalling  
 atrocious  
 awful  
 base  
 beastly  
 contemptible  
 cursed  
 deplorable  
 despicable  
 detestable  
 disagreeable  
 disgusting  
 dreadful  
 foul  
 frightening  
 frightful  
 ghastly  
 grim  
 grisly  
 gruesome  
 hateful  
 heinous  
 hideous  
 horrendous  
 horrible  
 horrid  
 horrific

horrifying  
 loathsome  
 lousy  
 lurid  
 mean  
 nasty  
 nauseating  
 obnoxious  
 obscene  
 odious  
 offensive  
 raunchy  
 repellent  
 reprehensible  
 repugnant  
 repulsive  
 revolting  
 scandalous  
 scary  
 shameful  
 shocking  
 sickening  
 terrible  
 terrifying  
 unpleasant  
 vile  
 wretched

# Interesting / Boring



**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  
enchanted  
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



*ZZZZZ 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

 **Boring:** The homework was easy, but the test was hard.  
**Interesting:** The homework was manageable, but the test was complicated.

Easy	Hard
accessible	arduous
apparent	backbreaking
basic	bothersome
clear-cut	burdensome
direct	challenging
effortless	complex
elemental	complicated
elementary	confusing
evident	demanding
facile	difficult
manageable	exacting
obvious	exhausting
painless	formidable
plain	grueling
routine	involved
self-explanatory	laborious
simple	painful
smooth	perplexing
straightforward	problematic
uncomplicated	puzzling
undemanding	strenuous
understandable	troublesome
uninvolved	trying
workable	unclear

# Compare / Contrast



*Zzzzzzz*

**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."

 **Boring:** Frogs and toads have many things in common.  
**Interesting:** Frogs and toads have many characteristics in common.

## achievement

accomplishment  
advancement  
contribution  
feat  
improvement  
progress  
success

## belief

conviction  
feeling  
idea  
notion  
opinion  
position  
theory  
understanding  
view

## chance

opportunity  
possibility  
prospect

## characteristic

aspect  
attribute  
distinction  
feature  
peculiarity  
property  
quality  
trademark  
trait

## choice

alternative  
decision  
option  
possibility  
preference  
selection

## effect

aftermath  
consequence  
outcome  
ramification  
result

## effort

action  
attempt  
endeavor  
step  
stride  
undertaking

## enjoyment

activity  
amusement  
diversion  
entertainment  
hobby  
interest  
pastime  
recreation

## experience

adventure  
affair  
encounter  
enterprise  
escapade  
event  
exploration  
exposure  
involvement  
ordeal  
participation  
undertaking  
venture

## goal

aim  
ambition

ideal  
intention  
objective  
plan

## issue

argument  
controversy  
focus  
question  
subject  
theme  
topic

## item

article  
belonging  
object  
particular  
possession  
product

## part

aspect  
component  
detail  
element  
factor  
feature  
particular  
section  
segment

## place

area  
locale  
location  
scene  
setting  
spot  
site  
vicinity

## problem

challenge  
concern  
conflict  
difficulty  
dilemma  
disadvantage  
frustration  
hardship  
obstacle  
predicament  
quagmire  
quandary  
struggle  
trial  
trouble  
weakness

## proof

data  
evidence  
fact  
statistic  
testimony  
verification

## reason

argument  
explanation  
justification  
motive  
pretext  
rationale

## situation

circumstance  
episode  
event  
happening  
incident  
issue  
matter  
occasion  
occurrence

## talent

ability  
capability  
genius  
gift  
power  
skill  
strength

## type

category  
description  
example  
form  
genre  
group  
kind  
model  
pattern  
sort  
variety

## value

advantage  
benefit  
importance  
meaning  
merit  
purpose  
significance  
use  
worth

## way

approach  
course  
direction  
manner  
method  
mode  
style  
system  
technique

# 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