

Vocabulary For Effect

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Replace a weak verb + adverb: 'He walked angrily out of the room.'

Step 1 · Find the weak core

'walked angrily' (generic verb propped up by an adverb)

Step 2 · List precise verbs

stormed, strode, marched, stamped

Step 3 · Pick by connotation

'Stormed' suggests uncontrolled anger; 'strode' suggests controlled anger.

Step 4 · Rewrite

'He stormed out of the room.' or, for icy anger, 'He strode out without a word.'

Answer: One precise verb replaces two weak words and adds a shade of meaning.

Check: Read it aloud: is it shorter and sharper?

2. Now try one with the steps

Choose between synonyms for a persuasive article: 'cheap', 'affordable', 'inexpensive', 'budget'.

Step 1 · Purpose

Step 2 · Connotations

Step 3 · Choice

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. Replace the underlined words with one verb: 'She ran very fast to the bus stop.' [1]

2. What are connotations? [1]

3. Give a more precise noun for 'a small boat'. [1]

4. Which has more positive connotations: 'stubborn' or 'determined'? [1]
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5. What is a semantic field? [1]
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6. Rewrite 'The weather was really bad' using precise vocabulary. [2]
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7. Why might 'ambitious vocabulary' NOT mean using the longest words you know? [2]
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8. Explain the difference in effect between 'the crowd gathered' and 'the crowd swarmed'. [2]
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9. Name three words that would build a semantic field of imprisonment for a description of a classroom. [1]
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10. A student writes 'the sun was incandescent with joy'. What is the problem? [2]
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11. Write one sentence about a busy kitchen using a semantic field of battle. [2]
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12. Why might a writer deliberately use a formal word in a chatty article? [2]
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13. Choose the best word for a persuasive charity leaflet: 'poor', 'deprived', 'struggling' families. Explain. [2]
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14. Upgrade 'The big dog made a loud noise at the man' into one vivid sentence. [2]
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4. Before you hand it in

Stacking adjectives: 'the dark, gloomy, spooky, creepy house'.

Choose one precise adjective or a concrete detail: 'the house with its boarded eyes'.

Thesaurus swaps that change meaning.

Only use a word you have seen used in context; reread the sentence aloud.

Relying on 'very', 'really', 'nice', 'good', 'bad'.

Replace with one precise word: 'very cold' → 'bitter'.

Accidental register slips ('The councillor's plan is well dodgy').

Decide your register before writing and proofread for slips.