



Banned Words in Writing

This document introduces alternatives to boring, elementary education words. Grab a thesaurus and add more to the list for your future use.

List of Banned Words and Alternatives

Say/said: state, assert, claim, announce

Like/liked: enjoy, relish, savor, treasure, value

Go/went: travel, drive, journey, tour, move, advance, leave, depart, approach, withdraw, continue, prosper,

Get/got: obtain, acquire, solicit, seize

See/saw: inspect, notice, view, discern, distinguish, examine, recognize, regard, observe

Be: appear, remain, stay, appear, become, consist

Sort of: moderately, rather, slightly, somewhat, to a degree, more or less

Have/has/had (as main verb): accept, acquire, admit, bear, carry, gain, hold, include, keep, land, obtain, occupy, own, pick up, possess, procure, receive, retain, secure, take, take in

Random: arbitrary, casual, aimless, fluke, odd, purposeless, stray, unpremeditated, desultory, incidental, indiscriminate, irregular, unconsidered.

VERBS:

come/came



extended
reached
stretched
spread
continued
carried on

get/got

acquire
obtain

FIND WORDS TO USE INSTEAD OF...

go/went

live/lived

put/put

run/ran

say/said

Hædon

see/saw

tell/ told

amazing

awesome

bad

big

cool

enormous

gigantic

ginormous

Hedon

good

happy

huge

humongous

little

nice

quick

sad

slow

small



BORING PHRASES:

Once upon a time (Snore...zzz...BORING) use these instead...

there dwelled

there existed

there is

there was

there were

there lived – there anything, blech!

ALTERNATIVES

"There are place settings on the table". -> "Place settings lay on the table". -> "The table is laid".

"There are penguins in Antarctica". -> "Penguins live in Antarctica".

"There are many elderly people in this town". -> "Many elderly people live in this town". -> "The mean age is high in this town".

"There are many motives of disagreement between him and me" -> "We have many motives of disagreement". -> "We disagree on a number of ideas".

ADVERBS:

“Really” ... Use any of these instead...

absolutely certainly, easily, genuinely, honestly, indeed, legitimately

literally, surely, truly, undoubtedly, unquestionably

well -> Delete it from the sentence

so -> Use any of these instead...

accordingly

consequently

ergo

hence

therefore

thereupon

thus

wherefore.

Then -> Use any of these instead...

at that time

at that point

in those days

at that point in time

at that moment

on that occasion

Very -> Do Not Use It

Very angry —> Furious

Very beautiful —> Gorgeous

Very big —> Massive

Very boring —> Dull

Very noisy —> Deafening

Very poor —> Destitute

Very cheap —> Stingy

Hoedon

Very clean → Spotless

Very short → Brief

Very difficult → Arduous

Very dry → Arid

Very quick → Rapid

Very bad → Awful

Very smart → Intelligent

Very sad → Sorrowful

Very upset → Distraught

Very cold → Freezing

Very strong → Forceful

Very huge → Colossal

Very calm → Serene

Very ugly → Hideous

Very small → Petite

Very funny → Hilarious

Very quiet → Hushed

Very rich → Wealthy

Very expensive → Costly

Very dirty → Filthy

Very tall → Towering

Very easy → Effortless

Very wet → Soaked

Very slow → Sluggish

Very good → Excellent

Very stupid → Idiotic

Very happy → Ecstatic

Very exciting → Exhilarating

Very warm → Hot

Very weak → Frail

Very little → Tiny

Very bright → Luminous

Very busy → Swamped

Very careful → Cautious

Very clear → Obvious

Very colorful → Vibrant

Very confused → Perplexed

Very creative → Innovative

Very crowded → Bustling

Adverbs Alternatives

brightly grin, shone, blind, sparkle

closely inspect, stalk, analyze

excitedly exclaim, shout, ramble, rant

gradually fade, emerge, materialize, dwindle

greedily devour, guzzle

heavily gasp, wheeze, saunter

immediately -> simply eliminate this adverb.

loudly slam, bang, slurp, explode, zing, shout

menacingly glare, scowl, screech

quickly dash, sprint, hustle, blurt

quietly whisper, lurk, skulk, sneak

roughly jab, jostle, grapple, seize

secretly eavesdrop, whisper

Hoedon

sleepily mumble, murmur, hobble, stumble
softly tiptoe, whisper, graze, skim
stupidly gawk, ramble, garble
suddenly Oftentimes, you can simply eliminate this adverb.
utterly decimate, humiliate
violently smash, shatter, yank, crash

NOUNS:

a lot -> Use any of these instead...

a good deal

a great deal

a large number

ample

a whole heap

an abundance

bunches

copious, copious amount

endless amount

enormous amount

enormously

excessive amount

heaps

infinite

legion

loads

many

masses

Hedon

much
millions
myriad
numerous
plenty
plethora
reams
scads
several
slew
surplus
thousands
tons
trillions

fun -> Use any of these instead...

noun
pleasure
entertainment
enjoyment
amusement
excitement
gratification
jollification
merrymaking
leisure
relaxation
relief

Hedon

respite

rest

refreshment

recreation

diversion

distraction

good time

great time

R and R (rest and recreation)

living it up

junketing

a ball

whoopee

beer and skittles

merriment

cheerfulness

cheeriness

cheer

joy

jollity

joviality

jocularity

high spirits

gaiety

mirth

mirthfulness

laughter

hilarity

Hoedon

glee

gladness

light-heartedness

levity

vivacity

liveliness

exuberance

ebullience

buoyancy

perkiness

zest

sunniness

brightness

enthusiasm

vibrancy

vividness

vitality

energy

vigor

vim

sport

adjective

enjoyable

amusing

diverting

pleasurable

pleasing

agreeable



interesting
entertaining
lively
fun-loving
witty
convivial
clubbable

PASSIVE VERBS:

am/are
appears/appeared
be/being
became/become
could/should/would
feels/felt
had/has/have
is/was/were
proved to be
remain/remains/remained
seem/seems/seemed
to be – mixed with anything

These passive words are banned when they are used as plain old verbs, but are ok to use as helping verbs. You will know you have a passive construction when you can replace any word or phrase with IS and the sentence still makes sense.

Passive words cannot just be replaced with words from the Thesaurus. The

Hædon

sentence needs to be rewritten in an ACTIVE tone – someone or something in the sentence has to DO something