

SENSORY WORDS



TOUCH



SMELL



SOUND



TASTE



SIGHT

rough	smoky	crashing	sweet	round
slippery	buttery	banging	sour	tall
bumpy	dusty	booming	tangy	rumpled
velvety	mildewy	clinking	tart	crumpled
scratchy	fresh	whizzing	spicy	thick
hard	new	popping	fresh	bent
padded	musty	plopping	stale	twisted
melted	musky	dripping	peppery	curved
limp	dank	screeching	burnt	sharp
rigid	spicy	howling	moldy	square
grooved	burnt	bawling	salty	plush
fuzzy	acid	meowing	oily	puffy
wet	earthy	snapping	creamy	dark
slick	fruity	woofing	acid	long
metallic	flowery	jingling	garlicy	open
cracked	chocolaty	tapping	delicious	dotted
flimsy	leathery	clicking	scrumptious	striped
silky	sweet	splashing	succulent	puckered
goey	vinegary	slurping	refreshing	new
moist	pungent	whistling	thirst-	ancient
plush	lemony	rustling	quenching	wrinkled
prickly	sharp	crackling	fishy	short
sharp	strong	loud	buttery	bright
curved	cheesy	soft	mouth-	multicolored
hairy	yeasty	muted	watering	see-through
dimpled	old	clanging	fruity	spangled
pointed	rank	roaring	minty	glittery
glassy	rotten	growling	starchy	translucent
oily	decayed	yowling	sweet & sour	opaque
dewy	spoiled	sniffing	juicy	glassy
sandy	perfumey	snorting	meaty	transparent
nubby	woody	scratching	heartly	chaotic
steamy	grassy	whispering	smoked	orderly

JUICY COLOR WORDS

See how many color families and individual colors your students can come up with!

RED

ruby
rose
blush
strawberry
cherry
cranberry
rouge
pink
garnet
Christmas
blood
oxblood
rust
barn
fire engine
candy apple
poppy
paprika
magenta
cerise
flaming
sunburn
tomato
fuchsia
scarlet
cinnamon
crimson
carmine

BLUE

baby
sky
navy
midnight

cobalt
royal
country
Wedgewood
denim
powder
robin's egg
azure
periwinkle
steel
slate
ocean blue
aquamarine
cornflower
turquoise
cerulean
sapphire

YELLOW

butter
school bus
egg yolk
marigold
gold
sunflower
cornsilk
banana
lemon

GREEN

lime
fern
olive
drab
army

khaki
seafoam
mint
teal
chartreuse
pistachio
seagreen
pea
forest
lawn
grass

ORANGE

goldenrod
sunset
fluorescent
dayglow
mango
tangerine
pumpkin
persimmon
fiery
coral
peach
saffron

PURPLE

hyacinth
orchid
lilac
lavender
burgundy
periwinkle
violet
bruise

plum
eggplant
aubergine
grape

BROWN

tan
chocolate
cocoa
mahogany
maple
sandy
sienna
moccasin
pecan
walnut
beige
earthen
saddlebrown
terra-cotta
chestnut
bronze

BLACK

jet
ebony
midnight
licorice
pitch
onyx
raven
coal
inky
soot
ebon

WHITE

creme
eggshell
almond
ecru
manila
vanilla
oyster
alabaster
snowy
milky
chalky
bleached
frosted
ivory

GEMS

diamond
ruby
topaz
peridot
emerald
quartz
opal
garnet
citrine

METALLICS

gold
silver
bronze
pewter
steel
platinum
chrome

SPECIFIC EMOTION WORDS

POSITIVE EMOTIONS: "I can feel..."

peaceful
relieved
excited
loyal
safe
focused
happy
glad
wanted
needed
valued
helpful
appreciated
respected
included

joyful
proud
calm
free
loved
ready
lovable
friendly
satisfied
powerful
capable
talented
accepted
validated
rewarded

worthy
relaxed
encouraged
noticed
pleased
capable
confident
cherished
prepared
attractive
supported
comfortable
complimented
acknowledged
independent



NEGATIVE EMOTIONS "I can feel..."

sad
lost
ugly
weak
angry
forced
fearful
irritated
excluded
guilty
nervous
betrayed
worried
anxious
humiliated

dumb
mocked
hopeless
judged
bored
ignored
bitter
embarrassed
overlooked
heartbroken
distrustful
stressed
criticized
insulted
confused
ridiculed
patronized
discouraged

overwhelmed
dejected
dissatisfied
unloved
grouchy
bossed
rejected
bothered
disheartened
agitated
interrupted
helpless
uninformed
ashamed
unprepared
disappointed
frustrated
unappreciated

Onomatopoeic Words

Use the following list to help you use onomatopoeic words in your poems.

- bang
- beep
- blink
- boom
- bow wow
- buzz
- chirp
- chug
- clang
- clap
- clatter
- click
- cluck
- cough
- crack
- crackle
- crash
- creak
- crunch
- cuckoo
- ding dong
- drip
- fizz
- flip flop
- glug
- grate
- grind
- gurgle
- hiss
- honk
- hum
- meow
- moan
- moo
- muffle
- munch
- murmur
- muzzle
- ping
- plop
- quack
- rattle
- ring
- rip
- roar
- rustle
- shuffle
- sizzle
- slam
- slap
- slurp
- smack
- snag
- snap
- splash
- squeak
- squeal
- squish
- swish
- tap
- thump
- tic tock
- warble
- whack
- whisk
- whisper
- yawn
- zoom

List 25. SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. Dictionaries often use synonyms in their definitions. There are whole books of synonyms and special reference works, such as the thesaurus, that have clusters of words or phrases, all with similar meanings. These are particularly useful in finding just the right word when writing. **Caution:** A synonym may be for only one meaning of a word with several meanings.

- able—capable—competent
abrupt—sudden—hasty
achieve—accomplish—attain
add—total—sum up
after—following—subsequent
aim—purpose—goal
all—every—entire
allow—permit—grant
anger—rage—fury
answer—response—reply
arrive—reach—get to
ask—question—interrogate
astonish—surprise—amaze
- back—rear—behind
bear—endure—tolerate
before—prior to—in front of
begin—start—initiate
below—under—beneath
birth—origin—genesis
border—edge—margin
bother—annoy—pester
boy—lad—youth
brave—courageous—daring
bulge—swell—protrude
busy—occupied—engaged
- call—shout—yell
calm—composed—serene
car—auto—vehicle
carry—tote—lug
careful—cautious—prudent
change—vary—alter
charm—fascinate—enchant
cheat—deceive—swindle
children—youngsters—tots
city—borough—town
close—shut—seal
consent—agree—acquiesce
continue—persevere—persist
country—nation—state
cure—heal—restore
- danger—peril—hazard
decrease—lessen—diminish
defect—flaw—blemish
delay—postpone—procrastinate
different—varied—diverse
disaster—calamity—catastrophe
divide—separate—split
during—while—at the same time
dwell—live—reside
- eat—consume—devour
effort—exertion—endeavor
end—finish—complete
energy—power—strength
enough—adequate—sufficient
error—mistake—fallacy
explain—expound—elucidate
- faith—trust—reliance
fat—plump—stout
fetch—bring—retrieve
find—locate—discover
fix—repair—mend
flat—level—flush
food—nourishment—sustenance
form—shape—make up
fragile—delicate—breakable
freedom—independence—liberty
frequent—often—many times
- gay—lively—vivacious
gift—present—donation
give—grant—hand over
glum—morose—sullen
go—leave—depart
grateful—appreciative—thankful
great—grand—large
grow—mature—develop
- happy—glad—joyous
hard—difficult—troublesome
hate—detest—despise

have—own—possess
heal—mend—cure
help—aid—assist
hide—conceal—secrete
high—tall—lofty
hold—grasp—clutch
hurry—rush—accelerate

idea—thought—concept
ill—sick—indisposed
income—revenue—earnings
injure—wound—hurt

job—work—occupation
junk—rubbish—waste
just—fair—right

keep—hold—retain
key—answer—solution
kind—considerate—helpful
kill—slaughter—murder

large—big—enormous
last—endure—persist
late—tardy—delayed
learn—acquire—understand
leave—depart—go away
like—enjoy—be fond of
listen—hear—attend
little—small—petite
long—lengthy—drawn out
look—glance—see

mad—crazy—insane
make—build—construct
many—multitudinous—numerous
marvelous—wonderful—extraordinary
mean—stand for—denote
mend—repair—restore
method—way—manner
might—may—perhaps
mistake—error—blunder
move—transport—propel

name—title—designation
near—close by—in the vicinity
need—require—want
new—fresh—recent
noise—uproar—clamor
novice—beginner—learner

occur—happen—take place
often—frequently—repeatedly
old—aged—ancient
omit—delete—remove
one—single—unit
open—unlock—unseal
ornament—decoration—adornment
outlive—survive—outlast

page—sheet—leaf
pain—ache—hurt
pair—couple—duo
pardon—forgive—excuse
part—portion—piece
peak—summit—top
people—public—populace
play—frolic—romp
praise—acclaim—applaud
primary—chief—principal
prohibit—forbid—restrict
put—place—locate

raid—attack—invade
reckless—careless—rash
remote—distant—secluded
renew—restore—revive
respect—honor—revive
revise—alter—correct
right—correct—proper

say—state—remark
seem—appear—look
sell—vend—market
shame—humiliation—mortification
show—demonstrate—display
sorry—regretful—penitent
speed—haste—hurry
start—begin—commence
still—unmoving—silent
stop—halt—end
story—tale—account
strength—power—energy
supply—provide—furnish
surpass—exceed—outdo

take—grab—seize
tense—taut—rigid
terrify—frighten—alarm
thanks—gratitude—appreciation
thaw—melt—dissolve

List 60. DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

What do telling tales and writing poetry or reports have in common? They depend on descriptive words to create vivid and accurate images in the reader's mind. A good stock of descriptive words will bolster the quality of your students' writing exercises. Use these lists of adjectives and adverbs to nudge reluctant writers into developing characters and setting, or to help students "retire" overused words.

Ability—Condition

able	confident	gentle	lucky	smooth
adequate	courageous	hardy	manly	spirited
alive	curious	healthy	mighty	stable
assured	daring	heavy	modern	steady
authoritative	determined	heroic	open	stouthearted
bold	durable	important	outstanding	strong
brainy	dynamic	influential	powerful	super
brave	eager	innocent	real	sure
busy	easy	intense	relaxed	tame
careful	effective	inquisitive	rich	tough
cautious	energetic	jerky	robust	victorious
clever	firm	light	sharp	zealous
competent	forceful	lively	shy	
concerned	gallant	loose	skillful	

Anger—Hostility

agitated	combative	evil	irritated	rude
aggravated	contrary	fierce	mad	savage
aggressive	cool	furios	mean	severe
angry	cranky	hard	nasty	spiteful
annoyed	creepy	harsh	obnoxious	tense
arrogant	cross	hateful	obstinate	terse
belligerent	cruel	hostile	outraged	vicious
biting	defiant	impatient	perturbed	vindictive
blunt	disagreeable	inconsiderate	repulsive	violent
bullying	enraged	insensitive	resentful	wicked
callous	envious	intolerant	rough	wrathful

See also List 25, Synonyms.

Depression—Sadness—Gloom

abandoned
alien
alienated
alone
awful
battered
blue
bored
burned
cheaped
crushed
debased
defeated
degraded
dejected
demolished

depressed
desolate
despairing
despised
despondent
destroyed
discarded
discouraged
dismal
downcast
downhearted
downtrodden
dreadful
estranged
excluded
forlorn

forsaken
gloomy
glum
grim
hated
homeless
hopeless
horrible
humiliated
hurt
jilted
kaput
loathed
lonely
lonesome
lousy

low
miserable
mishandled
mistreated
moody
mournful
obsolete
ostracized
overlooked
pathetic
pitiful
rebuked
regretful
rejected
reprimanded
rotten

ruined
rundown
sad
scornful
sore
stranded
tearful
terrible
tired
unhappy
unloved
whipped
worthless
wrecked

Distress

afflicted
anguished
awkward
baffled
bewildered
clumsy
confused
constrained
disgusted
disliked

displeased
dissatisfied
distrustful
disturbed
doubtful
foolish
futile
grief
helpless

hindered
impaired
impatient
imprisoned
lost
nauseated
offended
pained
perplexed

puzzled
ridiculous
sickened
silly
skeptical
speechless
strained
suspicious
swamped

tormented
touchy
troubled
ungainly
unlucky
unpopular
unsatisfied
unsure
weary

Fear—Anxiety

afraid
agitated
alarmed
anxious
apprehensive
bashful
dangerous
desperate

dreading
eerie
embarrassed
fearful
frantic
frightened
hesitant
horrified

insecure
intimidated
jealous
jittery
jumpy
nervous
on edge

overwhelmed
panicky
restless
scared
shaky
shy
strained

tense
terrified
timid
uncomfortable
uneasy
upset
worrying

Inability—Inadequacy

anemic	disabled	incapable	powerless	unable
ashamed	exhausted	incompetent	puny	uncertain
broken	exposed	ineffective	shaken	unfit
catatonic	fragile	inept	shaky	unimportant
cowardly	frail	inferior	shivering	unqualified
crippled	harmless	insecure	sickly	unsound
defeated	helpless	meek	small	useless
defective	impotent	mummified	strengthless	vulnerable
deficient	inadequate	naughty	trivial	weak
demoralized				

Joy—Elation

amused	enchanted	glorious	joyful	smiling
blissful	enthusiastic	good	jubilant	splendid
brilliant	exalted	grand	magnificent	superb
calm	excellent	gratified	majestic	terrific
cheerful	excited	great	marvelous	thrilled
comical	exuberant	happy	overjoyed	tremendous
contented	fantastic	hilarious	pleasant	triumphant
delighted	fit	humorous	pleased	vivacious
ecstatic	funny	inspired	proud	witty
elated	gay	jolly	relieved	wonderful
elevated	glad	jovial	satisfied	

Love—Affection—Concern

admired	conscientious	giving	mellow	reliable
adorable	considerate	good	mild	respectful
affectionate	cooperative	helpful	moral	sensitive
agreeable	cordial	honest	neighborly	sweet
altruistic	courteous	honorable	nice	sympathetic
amiable	dedicated	hospitable	obliging	tender
benevolent	devoted	humane	open	thoughtful
benign	empathetic	interested	optimistic	tolerant
brotherly	fair	just	patient	trustworthy
caring	faithful	kind	peaceful	truthful
charitable	forgiving	kindly	pleasant	understanding
comfortable	generous	lovable	reasonable	warm
congenial	genuine	loving	receptive	worthy

Quantity

ample	few	lots	paucity	scarcity
abundant	heavy	many	plentiful	skimpy
chock-full	lavish	meager	plenty	sparing
copious	liberal	much	profuse	sparse
dearth	light	numerous	scads	sufficient
empty	loads	oodles	scant	well-stocked

Sight—Appearance

adorable	crinkled	foggy	motionless	skinny
alert	crooked	fuzzy	muddy	smoggy
beautiful	crowded	glamorous	murky	sparkling
blinding	crystalline	gleaming	nappy	spotless
bright	curved	glistening	narrow	square
brilliant	cute	glowing	obtuse	steep
broad	dark	graceful	rotund	stormy
blonde	deep	grotesque	round	straight
bloody	dim	hazy	pale	strange
blushing	distinct	high	poised	ugly
chubby	dull	hollow	quaint	unsightly
clean	elegant	homely	shadowy	unusual
clear	fancy	light	shady	weird
cloudy	filthy	lithe	shallow	wide
colorful	flat	low	sheer	wizened
contoured	fluffy	misty	shiny	

Size

ample	elfin	immense	miniature	stupendous
average	enormous	large	minute	tall
behemoth	fat	little	petite	tiny
big	giant	long	portly	towering
bulky	gigantic	mammoth	prodigious	vast
colossal	great	massive	puny	voluminous
diminutive	huge	microscopic	short	wee
dwarfed	hulking	middle-sized	small	

Smell—Taste

acid	fragrant	putrid	sour	sweet
antiseptic	fresh	ripe	spicy	tangy
bitter	juicy	rotten	stale	tart
choking	medicinal	salty	sticky	tasteless
clean	nutty	savory	strong	tasty
delicious	peppery	smoky	stuffy	

Sound

bang
booming
buzz
clatter
cooing
crash
crying
deafening
faint

groan
growl
harsh
high-pitched
hiss
hoarse
hushed
husky
loud

melodic
moan
mute
noisy
purring
quiet
raspy
resonant
screaming

screech
shrill
silent
snarl
snort
soft
splash
squeak
squeal

thud
thump
thunderous
tinkle
voiceless
wall
whine
whispered

Time

ancient
annual
brief
brisk
centuries
continual
crawling
dawn
daybreak

daylight
decade
dusk
early
eons
evening
fast
flash
intermittent

late
lengthy
long
modern
moments
noon
noonday
old
old-fashioned

outdated
periodic
punctual
quick
rapid
short
slowly
speedy
sporadic

sunrise
sunset
swift
tardy
twilight
whirlwind
yearly
years
young

Touch

boiling
breezy
bumpy
chilly
cold
cool
creepy
crisp
cuddly
curly
damp

dirty
dry
dusty
filthy
flaky
fluffy
fluttering
frosty
fuzzy
gooey
greasy

grubby
hard
hot
icy
loose
melted
plastic
prickly
rainy
rough
sandpapery

shaggy
sharp
silky
slick
slimy
slippery
slushy
smooth
soft
solid
sticky

stinging
tender
tight
uneven
waxen
wet
wooden
yielding



TAGGED DIALOGUE: OTHER WAYS TO SAY "SHE SAID" OR "HE SAID."

The dialogue tags we use can add hidden meaning and plot clues to our writing. Because authors are supposed to *show* their readers what's going on, instead of *telling* them, one way to give your readers clues is to use special tags instead of the usual "she said, he said."

"I've told you a hundred times not to cook while I'm gone," her mother *scolded*. "You are grounded until next Monday."
"Please don't ground me," Sarah *pleaded*. "We ordered takeout from the Chinese restaurant."

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| accused | communicated | insisted | remarked |
| admitted | confided | interrupted | repeated |
| agreed | confirmed | lectured | reported |
| announced | congratulated | mentioned | reprimanded |
| answered | cried | mumbled | responded |
| apologized | declared | murmured | retaliated |
| appealed | denied | muttered | retorted |
| argued | described | narrated | revealed |
| asked | differed | objected | scolded |
| asserted | disagreed | observed | shouted |
| babbled | drawled | pleaded | spoke |
| begged | droned | pointed out | squeaked |
| bemoaned | echoed | pronounced | squealed |
| bickered | estimated | proposed | stammered |
| blamed | exclaimed | protested | stated |
| bragged | explained | quarreled | suggested |
| called | expressed | rambled | taunted |
| cautioned | groaned | raved | uttered |
| charged | guessed | reasoned | voiced |
| chattered | heckled | rebuked | whispered |
| claimed | implored | recited | yelled |
| commented | insinuated | refused | yelped |