

# Vague Words Tables

In the English language, writers commonly overuse certain words. In an academic setting, writers have the opportunity to broaden their vocabulary, discouraging repetition and the use of informal words. In the matrices below are often-misused or overused words and optional replacement words to potentially “spice up” an essay.

Modifier	Mild	Moderate	Strong
<b>Very</b>	Clearly, Considerably, Decidedly, Distinctly, Indubitably, Largely, Markedly, Notably, Recognizably	Awfully, Chiefly, Considerably, Especially, Incredibly, Obviously, Particularly, Quite, Substantially, Surprisingly, Uncommonly, Unmistakably, Wonderfully	Astonishingly, Absolutely, Astonishingly, Exceedingly, Exceptionally, Extremely, Incontestably, Profusely, Strikingly, Unequivocally, Unquestionably, Vastly
<b>A Lot</b>	<i>Time:</i> Often, Oftentimes, Sometimes <i>Size:</i> Many, Much, Several	<i>Time:</i> Frequently, Generally, Usually, Various <i>Size:</i> Bountiful, Considerable, Numerous	<i>Time:</i> Persistent, Recurrent, Regularly <i>Size:</i> Multitude, Profuse, Vast
<b>Big</b>	Above average, Ample, Considerable, Great, Important, Large, Sizable	Copious, Crucial, Magnificent, Ponderous, Significant, Substantial, Vast	Boundless, Colossal, Endless, Enormous, Essential, Extensive, Gigantic, Immense, Imposing, Limitless, Paramount, Prodigious, Voluminous
<b>Small</b>	Dinky, Faint, Light, Limited, Minor, Negligible, Puny, Slight, Superficial, Trivial, Undersized	Dwarf, Inconsiderable, Inferior, Miniature, Minimum, Microscopic, Petite, Scant, Tiny, Unsubstantial	Inconsequential, Ineffectual, Infinitesimal, Insignificant, Meager, Minute, Undetectable
<b>Good/ Great</b>	Able, Acceptable, Accomplished, Adequate, Adept, Agreeable, Ample, Efficient, Favorable, Pleasing, Profitable, Relevant, Reliable, Satisfactory, Satisfying, Super, Useful	Admirable, Apt, Clever, Commendable, Honorable, Proficient, Qualified, Skillful, Sound, Splendid, Superb, Thorough, Valuable, Wholesome, Wonderful, Worthy,	Advantageous, Excellent, Exceptional, Exemplary, Expert, Extensive, Flawless, Gratifying, Marvelous, Perfect, Reputable, Solid, Stupendous, Superior, Virtuous
<b>Bad</b>	Cheap, Dissatisfactory, Faulty, Grim, Low, Mean, Off, Poor, Regretful, Sour, Unpleasant, Unwell, Wrong	Careless, Defective, Deficient, Delinquent, Downcast, Grave, Harsh, Ill-suited, Imperfect, Inadequate, Inferior, Rancid, Rough, Sinful, Terrible, Unruly, Unsatisfactory, Wicked	Adverse, Awful, Corrupt, Detrimental, Dreadful, Diseased, Erroneous, Evil, Putrid, Ruinous, Vile, Villainous, Unacceptable

Emotional Word	High Intensity	Moderate Intensity	Low Intensity
<b>Confused</b>	Amazed, Astonished, Baffled, Bewildered, Disoriented, Flabbergasted, Perplexed, Stunned	Befuddled, Disorganized, Distracted, Doubtful, Perplexed, Puzzled, Surprised	Dazed, Indecisive, Lost, Misled, Uncertain, Undecided, Unsure

Emotional Word	High Intensity	Moderate Intensity	Low Intensity
<b>Scared</b>	Alarmed, Fearful, Overwhelmed, Panicked, Petrified, Terrified	Afraid, Anxious, Dread, Panicked, Panicky, Shaken, Tense, Worried	Apprehensive, Edgy, Hesitant, Startled, Surprised, Uncomfortable, Uneasy
<b>Angry</b>	Exasperated, Furious, Hateful, Hostile, Incensed, Indignant, Irate, Outraged, Raging	Aggravated, Annoyed, Fuming, Irked, Irritated, Mad, Offended, Provoked, Sullen, Sulky, Ticked	Bothered, Displeased, Fret, Fuss, Hassled, Peeved, Perturbed
<b>Sad</b>	Crushed, Despairing, Hopeless Devastated, Distraught, Gloomy, Grieved, Miserable, Heartbroken, Heavyhearted,	Cheerless, Dejected, Disillusioned, Dismayed, Downcast, Forlorn, Glum, Hurt, Hurting, Melancholy	Blue, Discouraged, Disappointed, Down, Low, Somber, Sorry, Unhappy
<b>Weak</b>	Anemic, Ashamed, Depleted, Decrepit, Exhausted, Frail, Powerless, Useless	Fragile, Helpless, Inadequate, Inept, Run down, Sluggish, Spent, Vulnerable, Worn out	Feeble, Ineffective, Limp, Soft, Tired, Unable, Weary, Wimpy
<b>Happy</b>	Captivated, Ecstatic, Elated, Excited, Euphoric, Intoxicated, Joyous, Jubilant, Overjoyed, Thrilled	Cheerful, Delighted, Enthusiastic, Gleeful, Hopeful, Lively, Joyful, Optimistic, Peppy, Ticked, Upbeat	Blissful, Chipper, Content, Glad, Jolly, Light, Merry, Perky, Playful, Pleased, Up
<b>Strong</b>	Active, Emphatically, Potent Fearless, Forceful, Vigorous Mighty, Powerful, Unyielding	Brave, Confident, Daring, Hardy, Hefty, Robust, Sound, Tough	Able, Adequate, Assured, Capable, Firm, Stable, Steady, Solid

Vague Verb or Noun	Alternatives / Replacements
<b>Do</b>	accomplish, complete, conclude, end, finalize, finish, finish up, prepare, ready, terminate
<b>Fix</b>	<b>Repair:</b> attach, clinch, connect, fasten, install, mend, repair, secure <b>Decide/Make Right:</b> conclude, correct, decide, define, determine, direct, establish, find a solution, organize, plan for, settle, solve, stabilize <b>All Words Together:</b> attach, clinch, conclude, connect, correct, decide, define, determine, direct, establish, fasten, find a solution, install, mend, organize, plan for, repair, settle, solve, stabilize, secure
<b>Get</b>	<b>Communicate:</b> call, communicate with, contact, talk, telephone, write <b>Evolve/Change:</b> change into, come to be, grow, transport, turn into <b>Hurt:</b> aggravate, agitate, anger, annoy, apprehend, damage, disquiet, exasperate, harm, hit, hurt, injure, irritate, perturb, punch, shoot, slap, strike, unsettle, wound <b>Purchase:</b> acquire, attain, buy, collect, earn, excite, inherit, obtain, pick up, pocket, purchase, receive, retrieve, seize, take <b>Understand:</b> comprehend, fathom, follow, hear, learn, perceive, phone, realize, understand, Win over <b>Touch/Inspire:</b> affect, arouse, capture, catch, grab, grasp, grip, have an impact on, hold, influence, make an impression on, melt, move, persuade, reach, see, sense, soften, stimulate, stir, sway, touch, <b>With a goal in mind:</b> achieve, attain, become, benefit, gain, profit, secure
<b>Things/ Stuff</b>	accomplishments, achievements, acts, actions, adventures, affairs, articles, belongings, circumstances, components, concern, condition, contraption, deed, design, detail, device, effort, element, endeavor, enterprise, entity, episode, event, experience, facet, fact, factor, feat, gadget, gimmick, goal, idea, incident, ingredient, instance, item, intent, job, matter, meaning, measure, move, object, objective, occasion, occurrence, operation, organism, particle, performance, point, proceeding, purpose, reference, relation, scheme, situation, substance, task, unit, work