

Guide to more colorful and precise language in your writing

Several overused and misused words are listed below, along with synonyms and alternate words which might improve your writing style.

Say, says, said, saying

Usage	Synonym – Alternate Word
To produce or make speech or sounds	articulate, enunciate, pronounce, sound out, utter, vocalize
To put into words	articulate, communicate, convey, declare, express, impart, indicate, record, repeat, report, show, speak, state, talk, tell, utter, vent, verbalize, vocalize, voice
To put into words positively and with conviction	affirm, allege, argue, assert, aver, avouch, avow, claim, confirm, contend, declare, hold, maintain, register, state, verify

Thing

Usage	Synonym – Alternate Word
One that exists independently	being, entity, existence, existent, individual, object, something
Something having material existence	article, artifact, item, object
A small specialized mechanical device	concern, contraption, contrivance, gadget, gimmick
One's portable property	belonging (often used in plural), effect (used in plural), good (used in plural), personal effects, personal property, possession (used in plural)
Objects needed for a task, journey, or other purpose	apparatus, equipment, gear, material (used in plural), materiel, outfit, paraphernalia, rig, tackle, turnout
Something done	accomplishment, act, action, deed, doing, event, statement, work
Something to be done, considered, or dealt with	affair, aim, business, goal, matter, object, objective, purpose, target
Something that happens	circumstance, event, happening, incident, occasion, occurrence
Something significant that happens	circumstance, development, episode, event, happening, incident, news, occasion, occurrence
A preoccupation	feeling, fetish, fixation, mania, obsession
The current custom	craze, fad, fashion, furor, mode, rage, style, trend, vogue
Something at which a person excels	attribute, forte, quality, specialty, strength, strong point, strong suit

“Interesting” and Other “Uninteresting” Words

NEVER use boring or lifeless adjectives and verbs like “interesting” or “good” or “bad”.

For example: The movie WAS INTERESTING. Interesting has no meaning in this context. Be more descriptive in your writing. Example: *The movie was well crafted, and focused on state-of-the-art special effects, quick-cut editing, and futuristic gadgetry.*

To make your writing more descriptive or colorful, you may want to consider using one of the following synonyms of “interesting”

- absorbing, affecting, alluring, amazing, amusing, appealing, arresting, astonishing, astounding, attention-getting, attractive,
- beautiful, bewitching, breathtaking,
- captivating, challenging, charismatic, charming, compelling, curious,
- delicious, delightful,
- electric, elegant, electrifying, emphatic, enchanting, engaging, engrossing, entertaining, entrancing, enthralling, exceptional, exciting, exhilarating, exotic, eye-opening,
- fabulous, fascinating, fine,
- galvanizing, gracious, gripping,
- hypnotizing,
- imaginative, immersing, impressive, inspiring, intriguing, inviting, involving,
- lovely,
- magnetic, marvelous, memorable, mesmerizing,
- odd, one-of-a-kind, outstanding,
- pleasant, pleasurable, poignant, profound, provocative,
- readable, refreshing, riveting, rousing,
- showy, spellbinding, splashy, state-of-the-art, stimulating, stirring, striking, surprising, suspicious,
- tantalizing, thought provoking, thrilling,
- unforgettable, unique, unusual,
- weird, winning, wonderful, wondrous,