



The Student Writer's Toolbox

The stories you enjoy reading have interesting, exciting, scary, sad, etc. dialogue, setting, plot and characters. Use these “tools” to improve your writing skills:

1. Adjectives- use these to describe a person, place or thing.	2. Adverbs- use these to answer the questions how, when and where.
3. Metaphors- use a word or phrase to express similarity between two different things.	4. Similes- use like or as to make a comparison between two different things.

1. Examples of **ADJECTIVES** to describe the person, place or thing you are writing about:

Feelings	Colors	Senses	Sizes & Shapes	Describing People	Describing Places & Things	How Many	Which One
scared	turquoise	squeaky	steep	stubborn	snug	few	any
happy	silvery	furry	enormous	silly	delicate	every	either
proud	purplish	dim	thick	clever	natural	half	second
cross	black	spicy	triangular	wise	unusual	each	next
grateful	golden	oily	slim	polite	comfortable	all	final
sorry	pink	stale	wide	young	favorite	none	both
angry	orange	sour	narrow	friendly	terrible	many	another
nervous	tan	creamy	square	smart	simple	some	final
calm	green	rough	straight	brave	mysterious	million	those
gloomy	cherry	slippery	flat	careful	ancient	most	last

2. Examples of **ADVERBS** to answer the questions how, when and where:

How	When	Where
thankfully	suddenly	somewhere
sweetly	nightly	ashore
crazily	never	downstairs
silently	usually	overhead
angrily	tomorrow	everywhere
greedily	monthly	upward
hopefully	yesterday	between
eagerly	early	nearby
rapidly	instantly	inside
quietly	finally	behind
sadly	often	outdoors
slyly	after	backward
sleepily	daily	west
bravely	again	anywhere

3. Examples of **METAPHORS** – the direct comparison between two unlike things that actually have something in common:

Life **is** a journey. *

The cat's eyes were green emeralds.

The Earth is our spacecraft.

The sky's the limit!

The assignment was a breeze.

Dad is an ox. (Dad is very strong.)

Dad is a bear. (Dad is big and grouchy.)

4. Examples of **SIMILES** – the indirect comparison between two things using like or as:

Life **is like** a journey. *

He runs like the wind.

She is as busy as a bee.

The twins are as alike as two peas in a pod.

The thief was as quiet as a mouse.

Sandra is sharp as a tack. (Sandra is very smart.)

Harry is crazy as a loon. (Harry is odd.)

More tools:

If you write the word **good**, try one of these words instead: wonderful, fabulous, terrific, great, outstanding, excellent, tremendous, positive, neat, cool, superb, awesome, magnificent

If you write the word **bad**, try one of these words instead: horrible, wicked, terrible, negative, awful, rotten

If you write the word **like**, try one of these words instead: adore, treasure, admire, love, cherish

If you write the word **hate**, try one of these words instead: detest, despise, abhorred, scorn, dislike

Even more tools:

Dialogue - characters are talking in your writing. You have to use quotation marks.

An example: "Yes, I think we should follow that plan," said Bobby.

It is better to write: "Yes, I think we should follow that plan," **agreed** Bobby.

When your characters speak in your writing, try another word besides **said** with your quotation marks.

Think of the character's feelings and actions.

A **happy** person said: **agreed, cheered, joked, exclaimed, laughed**

A **sad** person said: **sobbed, whined, moaned, cried, complained**

An **angry** person said: **yelled, screamed, snapped, swore**

A person **lying** said: **lied, fibbed**

A **bossy** person said: **bossed, teased, argued, ordered, interrupted, demanded**

A **weak** person said: **whispered, uttered, muttered**

A **surprised** person said: **gaspd, exclaimed, shouted, stammered, bellowed, boomed**

A person **warning someone** said: **warned, cautioned, advised, alerted, notified**

A person **answering back** said: **replied, responded, remarked, returned, explained, commented, reported**

Take your time and use these "colorful" words in your writing.