

Choosing Better Words

Name: _____

Vague words make writing forgettable. Rewrite each sentence with words that carry more information — without making it longer than it needs to be.

1. The movie was good and the acting was good too.

2. We went to the place where they keep the animals.

3. It was a very very cold day.

4. The food at the restaurant was nice.

5. He walked quickly to the store to get some things.

6. There was a big noise outside the house.

7. The dog was really really happy to see us.

8. She said something about the thing we did yesterday.

9. The soup tasted bad.

10. It was a nice day so we went outside.

Choosing Better Words — Answer Key

Answers will vary. Examples: *The film was funny and the acting was believable. / We went to the aquarium. / It was minus twenty. / The soup was salty but the bread was warm. / He jogged to the corner store for milk and batteries. / Something heavy hit the deck outside.*

"Very" is usually a sign that a better single word exists: very cold → freezing, very tired → exhausted.