

The Micro

A look @ dialogue tags. It stuff ends or begins with 'he grimaced', 'she smiled', etc after/before what ppl say. Try to eliminate all of those. Just stick to 'he said'. Then an action or nothing @ all if the dialogue is clear.

The List

Copy this list and put it by your computer. You'll use it a lot:

Passive verbs:
has, had, was, gone, went, 's

ly	very	smell
of	about	saw
that	ing	taste
said	And	touch
was -	But	widows
were	like	aloud
by	ion	bed
his	felt	Lynne
her	hear	seem
just		shook
		noded
		several

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Five Ways to Make Good Writing Great by Linda George

Posted By [Carrie Spencer](#) On July 29, 2014 @ 12:08 am In [Editing/Revision, Scene Construction](#) | [6 Comments](#)

Welcome first -time poster [Linda George!](#) ^[2] RU Writers – do you need to make your writing strong, brighter, faster? Then read this lecture and empower your writing! [Tweet](#) ^[1]



When a rejection letter says, "Unfortunately, the writing isn't strong enough to compete in today's market," what does that mean?

For years, I attended conferences and asked authors, editors, and agents, "What constitutes strong writing?" Their answers were less than helpful. "Characters that seem real. Dialogue that rings true. A plot that's suspenseful and compelling." Most often, they said, "We know strong writing when we see it." But how could I test my writing to make it stronger?

After more than 30 years of writing professionally, and having more than 70 books published, fiction and nonfiction, for adults, teens, and children, I now know how to recognize strong writing—and how to strengthen weak writing, word by word, sentence by sentence.

Here are five easy ways to make your writing stronger.

1. Cut Unnecessary Words

Strong writing is TIGHT writing. Getting rid of unnecessary words streamlines the writing, increases tension and suspense, and makes the writing stronger. There are dozens of words that often can be omitted without jeopardizing the meaning of sentences. Avoid qualifiers, such as very, just, etc.

Examples:

that
which
started to
began to
proceeded to
the
considering the fact that
very
just
so
quite
even
real
really
certainly
definitely
exactly
anyway
some
such
is/was/were
usually
probably
perhaps



sort of
a little
seem
almost
slightly
rather
fairly
somewhat



You'll notice many of these words are adjectives or adverbs. Strong nouns and verbs are your best tools as a writer—they show. Get rid of filler words and qualifiers that tell. Every time you tighten the writing, you strengthen the writing.

2. Eliminate adverbial phrases beginning with "as."

These phrases have become popular, even among best-selling authors. They indicate simultaneous action, which the reader is asked to picture while reading. But, a reader can read and picture only one action at a time. Unless it's absolutely necessary, give your reader a break, and strengthen the writing at the same time, by avoiding these phrases.

Example: As he walked to his car, John waved to his daughter as she raced her tricycle into a man as he jogged down the sidewalk.

Stronger: John strolled to his car and waved to his daughter on her

tricycle. Before he could yell a warning, she raced into a jogger on the sidewalk and knocked him down.

3. Eliminate Redundancies

We live in a world of redundancies. Generally used to make something sound more important or emphatic, redundant phrases use up precious words and dilute meaning instead of emphasizing. **Examples:**

Exact same/same exact
Rose to her feet
Stood to his full height
Small leprechaun
Long-necked giraffe
6 a.m. in the morning
blistering
2-wheeled bicycle
absolutely perfect (perfect is an absolute)
terribly bad
red in color
long-lasting durability
rise up
fall down
drop down
climbed up
nodded his head
shrugged his shoulders
tiptoed quietly
stomped heavily
ran quickly
eased slowly
crept slowly
stood up
sat down



4. Get Rid of Unnecessary Dialogue Tags and Replace with Action

I once met a writer at a conference who boasted she'd compiled a list of more than 700 words to use other than "said" as dialogue tags. I wondered why she'd wasted all that effort when even "said" isn't necessary most of the time.

Action from a character in the same paragraph as dialogue from that character identifies the speaker, eliminating the need for "said."

Example: "Come in the house this minute, young man!" Mom said with an angry scowl on her face.

Stronger: "Come in the house this minute, young man!" Mom slammed the screen door behind her and stood with her hands on her hips, an angry scowl on her face.

5. Eliminate Passive Verbs Whenever Possible

You'll notice the word "eliminate" instead of "replace." Often, it's difficult or impossible to replace "was" with another verb. But it's often possible to eliminate it altogether by turning the sentence around so the stronger verb following "was" becomes the primary verb.

Example: His eyes were shaded by a tan Stetson.

Stronger: A tan Stetson shaded his face.

Example: The pathway was lined with fragrant petunias.

Stronger: Fragrant petunias lined the pathway.

Not all sentences can be turned around this way. If the sentence rebels, leave the passive verb. Most sentences, though, brighten and get stronger when the passive verbs are eliminated.

KISS ME, LYNN will be a FREE download on Amazon August 2-6! Photos have been posted on my website so readers can see the places included in the tour in the book. www.LindaGeorge.net ^[3]

RU Writers – give us a hint, what are your favorite weak/strong words?

Join us tomorrow for Does Your Series Tell a "Bigger Story"? by Susan Spann.

Bio: [Linda George](#) ^[2] has been a professional writer for 35 years and is the author of more than 70 books, fiction and nonfiction, for adults, teens, and children. Since 2013, Linda has focused on writing romance—contemporary, historical, and time travel. She lives in West Texas and spends as much time as possible at their "little piece of paradise" near Cloudcroft in the New Mexico mountains.

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45 Ways to avoid using the word 'very'

Avoid saying very:	Rather say:	Avoid saying very:	Rather say:
afraid	terrified	neat	immaculate
angry	furious	old	ancient
bad	atrocious	poor	destitute
beautiful	exquisite	pretty	beautiful
big	immense	quiet	silent
bright	dazzling	risky	perilous
capable	accomplished	roomy	spacious
clean	spotless	rude	vulgar
clever	brilliant	serious	solemn
cold	freezing	small	tiny
conventional	conservative	strong	unyielding
dirty	squalid	stupid	idiotic
dry	parched	tasty	delicious
eager	keen	thin	gaunt
fast	quick	tired	exhausted
fierce	ferocious	ugly	hideous
good	superb	valuable	precious
happy	jubilant	weak	feeble
hot	scalding	wet	soaked
hungry	ravenous	wicked	villainous
large	colossal	wise	sagacious
lively	vivacious	worried	anxious
loved	adored		

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Writing with Clarity

Phrase

Along the lines of
 As of this date
 As to
 At the present time
 By means of
 For the purpose of
 For the reason that
 From the point of view of
 Inasmuch as
 In order to
 In a position to
 In the possession of
 In a satisfactory manner
 In the case of
 In view of
 In the nature of
 In the event of
 In connection with
 In relation to
 In the amount of
 In a number of cases
 On the basis of
 On the grounds that
 Owing to the fact that
 On the part of
 On behalf of
 On a few occasions
 Prior to
 Subsequent to
 With a view to
 With reference to
 With regard to
 With the result that

Replacement

Like
 Today
 About (or omit entirely)
 Now
 With, by
 For
 Since, because
 For
 For, as
 To
 Has, have
 Has, have
 Satisfactorily
 If
 Because, since
 Like
 If
 Of, in, on
 Toward, to
 For
 Some
 By
 Since, because
 Since, because
 By, among, for
 For
 Occasionally
 Before
 After
 To
 About (or omit entirely)
 About (or omit entirely)
 So that

Source: Bates, Jefferson D. *Writing with Precision* CanadiansInternet.com

adjective + preposition

accustomed to	comfortable with/in	fascinated by	limited to	sensitive to/about
accused of	connected with/to	fed up with	lucky at/with	serious about
addicted to	conscious of	free of/from	mad at/about	sick of
afraid of	content with	frightened of	married to	similar to
angry about/with	crazy about	friendly with	nervous of/about	shocked by
annoyed about/with/at	cruel to	fond of	notorious for	skilful at
allergic to	crowded with	furious about	opposed to	slow at
amazed at/by	cruel to	furnished with	optimistic about	sorry for/about
anxious about/to	curious about	full of	patient with	successful at/in
appreciated for	doubtful about	generous with	pessimistic about	suitable for
ashamed of	delighted at/about	guilty of/about	pleased with	sure of/about
associated with	derived from	gentle with	polite to	superior to
astonished at/by	different from	good at	popular with	surprised at/by
attached to	disappointed with	grateful to	presented with	suspicious of
aware of	eager for	happy about	proud of	sympathetic with
bad at	eligible for	hopeful of/about	punished for	talented at
based on	enthusiastic about	identical to	puzzled by/about	terrible at
beneficial to	excellent at	immune to	qualified for	terrified of
bored with	excited about	impressed with	ready for	tired of
brilliant at	experienced in	inferior to	related to	thankful to/for
busy with	exposed to	indifferent to	responsible for	typical of
capable of	envious of	jealous of	sad about	upset about
careful with/about/of	faithful to	kind to	safe from	used to
certain about	familiar with	keen on	satisfied with	wrong about/with
clever at/about	famous for	late for/to	scared of	worried about



CORK ENGLISH TEACHER





Go Into The Story
<http://gointothestory.bkclst.com/>
 List Compiled by Alan Donahue

Active Verb Cheatsheet

115 Words for "Walks"

accompanies	legs	shuffles
advances	limps	skips
ambles	locomotes	slinks
ambulates	loiters	slithers
ankles	lumbers	slogs
approaches	lurches	soars
barges	marches	sprints
boots	meanders	sneaks
bounces	minces	stalks
brushes	mopes	steps
bursts	moseys	side-steps
careens	moves	stomps
canters	navigates	storms
clumps	paces	strides
crawls	pads	strolls
creeps	paddles	struts
dances	parades	stumbles
darts	patrols	stalks
dashes	perambulates	staggers
dawdles	pitter-patters	stumps
escorts	potters	swaggers
exercises	plods	tiptoes
falters	prances	toddles
files	proceeds	totters
flounces	processes	tours
flounders	promenades	tramps
foots it	prowls	traverses
gimps	races	treads
glides	rambles	treks
goes	reels	troops
goose-steps	roams	trods
hastens	roves	trots
hikes	runs	trudges
hobbles	rushes	wades
hops	sashays	wanders
hoofs it	saunters	waddles
hurries	scrambles	zips
jogs	scuffs	
knocks about	scurries	
leads	shambles	

39 Synonyms for Run

accelerate	fly	pound	sprint
belt	gallop	race	stampede
bolt	hare	rush	streak
bound	hasten	scamper	sweep
career	hurry	scarper	trot
charge	hurtle	scoot	whip
dart	jog	scurry	whizz
dash	lope	scuttle	zip
escape	nip	shoot	zoom
flee	pelt	speed	
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