

THE POWER OF VOCABULARY

in Writing Engaging Stories

Boost your compositions by building up a strong vocabulary!



Writing compositions that stand out during examinations can be challenging because of the limited time given. In the PSLE, the assessment criteria are equally divided between content and language. Therefore, while having an interesting plot and characters is important, it is also crucial to score well in language. One way to power up your writing is to build up a strong vocabulary.

How Does Good Vocabulary Enhance Writing?

Good vocabulary choice can help you to convey emotions accurately, stir up readers' senses, and evoke strong imagery that enables readers to visualise the scene or event in their minds.

Infusing different language elements or word choices into your writing will create impact. Here are some examples of how you can do this:

ORIGINAL SENTENCE	WORD CLASS/ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	POWERED-UP SENTENCE
My friends and I looked at one another in a confused manner.	adjective	My friends and I looked at one another perplexed .
She had thoroughly and carefully taken down notes for the examination and had also highlighted key points to remember.	adverb	She had meticulously taken down notes for the examination and had also highlighted key points to remember.
She turned around and both of them were soon pulling and fighting with each other like mad, wild animals.	simile	She turned around and both of them were soon tearing at each other like frenzied animals out of control .

ORIGINAL SENTENCE	WORD CLASS/ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	POWERED-UP SENTENCE
Everyone stopped what they were doing and everything seemed to stop moving.	metaphor	Everyone stopped what they were doing and time stood still .
She nearly got a huge fright when she uncovered a squashed lizard under a pile of books.	idiom	She nearly jumped out of her skin when she uncovered a squashed lizard under a pile of books.

How to Build Your Vocabulary?

There are various ways to expand your vocabulary. Develop a reading habit for a deeper understanding of how words are used in context. Use the dictionary to find out the meanings of words you do not know and learn about related words at the same time. You can also build your own vocabulary list through word games like crossword puzzles and Scrabble and study the list from time to time.

Having a strong vocabulary does not mean that you should throw in bombastic words and complicated idioms in your writing. In fact, consciously avoiding clichés and overused phrases may help you score more points. For a down-to-earth, step-by-step guide to excelling in Primary English composition writing, you may refer to *Power Up Your Writing* by Educational Publishing House Pte Ltd.



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