

# Replacing Dull Verbs with Vivid Verbs



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Verbs give sentences their power, but some verbs are more powerful than others. Vivid verbs create a clear picture of what the subject is doing, while dull verbs give a general, vague view.

A dull verb tells you that *Dakota and Maria go down the hill*, but a vivid verb shows how *Dakota and Maria glide down the hill*.

To energize your writing, choose vivid verbs over dull ones. Here are some examples:

Dull	Vivid
look	stare
make	design
eat	devour
find	discover
think	wonder

walk	strut
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**Your Turn** The following paragraph contains many dull verbs (in **bold**). Replace the dull verbs with vivid ones. If you get stuck, use a print or [online thesaurus](#) to find specific and lively verbs.

(Answers will vary.)

One snowy afternoon, Dakota and Maria met at the bottom of a steep hill. They **went** to the top of the hill with their sled. The sledding conditions were perfect. Fluffy snow **covered** the ground and **came** from the sky. The two girls **got** on the sled and pushed off, first moving slowly and then picking up speed. Faster and faster they **moved** down the hill. Before long, Maria **saw** a big bump ahead and **said**, "Get ready! We're heading straight for that jump!" She was right. Their sled hit the bump head on, **went** airborne, and **landed** with a thud. Both girls **fell** off the sled and rolled to a stop. With their faces covered in snow, they **got up**, laughed, and shouted, "Let's **go** again!"

One snowy afternoon, Dakota and Maria met at the bottom of a steep hill. They **trudged** to the top of the hill with their sled. The sledding conditions were perfect. Fluffy snow **blanketed** the ground and **flurried** from the sky. The two girls **climbed** on the sled and pushed off, first moving slowly and then picking up speed. Faster and faster they **slid** down the hill. Before long, Maria **spotted** a big bump ahead and **shouted**, "Get ready! We're heading straight for that jump!" She was right. Their sled hit the bump head on, **launched** airborne, and **crashed** with a thud. Both girls **tumbled** off the sled and rolled to a stop. With their faces covered in snow, they **climbed up**, laughed, and shouted, "Let's **slide** again!"

- See more at

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