

Overused words

Some words, such as 'said', 'nice', or 'good' are often overused. There are more precise, accurate, and descriptive words to use rather than repeating the same word.



GETTING STARTED

a) Tick the sentence you think is more descriptive.

"What a fantastic hat!" said Miss Morgan. "I wish I had one like that," she said.

"What a fantastic hat!" exclaimed the teacher. "I wish I had one like that," she added.

b) Fill in the gaps in the following sentences, choosing the most suitable word from below.

- groaned
- instructed
- announced
- explained
- requested
- stuttered
- whispered
- cried
- pleaded
- croaked

1. 'Stop talking in the library,' _____ Alison.
2. 'Don't catch the bus home on your own,' _____ my mum.
3. 'I'm starving,' _____ the giant.
4. 'The rabbits have escaped into your garden,' _____ Anna.
5. 'You should always wear a gum shield when you play hockey,' _____ the coach.
6. 'Please, please, please may I have another piece?' _____ Philip.
7. 'I'm too scared, I can't do it!' _____ Jo from the top of the diving board.
8. 'The d-dog, no, the c-cat, ate my essay,' _____ the small boy.
9. 'Can I see your boarding pass?' _____ the steward.
10. 'The doctor signed me off school for a week,' _____ Zygmunt.

Use each word only once.



MOVING ON

Tick the sentence you think is more effective.

The weather is nice, and the food is nice.

The weather is mild and the food is delicious.

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences, choosing the most suitable word from below.

1. They said they had a very _____ evening at the opera.
2. The film star looked _____ in real life.
3. Ben is very _____, he has a lot of mates.
4. The hotel is _____.
5. They say he is _____ because he has such good manners.
6. The ice cream I had last night at the cinema tasted _____.
7. The weather was _____ and it didn't rain all week.
8. The little dog is so _____, always jumping up and wagging its tail.

- attractive
- likeable
- enjoyable
- handsome
- friendly
- scrumptious
- fine
- gorgeous
- charming

How many did you get right?

5 = NOVICE

10 = EXPERT

15 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford Student's Dictionary for these activities