

# WRITING SKILLS THAT ADD MAGIC TO YOUR WRITING!

**Onomatopoeia** — These are the sound effect words or descriptive words that add an element of sound to your writing. Onomatopoeia makes things “come alive” for the reader and helps him feel like he’s right there in the middle of the action.

- *Pop! Crash! Drip! Jingle!*
- *The wind **whispered** and **sang** outside my window, lulling me to sleep.*

**Vivid Verbs** — Vivid verbs are verbs you can picture. They create rich “mind movies” in the imaginations of your readers.

- ***Scooted. Dragged. Flopped. Bolted. Twisted.***
- *Amelia **rocketed** to the nurse’s station and **blurted**, “Someone’s been hurt!”*

**Alliteration** — Alliteration means two or more words together which begin with the same letter sound. Alliteration “tickles your ears” and can add beauty to your writing.

- *Beautiful, bold, breakfast buffet*
- *The **snake slithered** across the **slimy** rock.*

**Dialogue** — This means conversation. Dialogue makes your reader feel connected to the speakers you are writing about. We let the reader know someone is speaking by using quotation marks.

- *“Throwing the basketball from the free throw line is challenging,” Coach said.*
- *“Will you teach me?” Benjy asked.*

**Similes** — Similes are when we compare two things using the words “like” or “as” to connect them.

- *“Let **George** move the piano because he is as **strong as an ox.**”*
- *Marissa **drives** her convertible **like a maniac** when she’s angry.*

**Metaphor** — Metaphors are direct comparisons of two things without using the words “like” or “as.”

- *Let George move the piano because **he is an ox.***
- ***Marissa is a maniac** when she is angry.*

**Transitional phrases and sentences** — Transitional phrases and sentences form smooth “bridges” when we change from one topic or thought to the next.

- *The first step is easy!*
- *This is my favorite part.*
- *If you think that’s bad, listen to what happens next.*
- *You won’t believe what happened next.*

**Adjectives** — These are words that describe nouns and help the reader form mental pictures of what we are writing about.

- *Carlos tossed out the **muddy, scratched** baseball from the dugout.*
- *Frienda shook her **shining, black** mane and tail in the **brilliant, gleaming** sunlight.*

**Grabbers** — Writers use grabbers to get the reader’s attention at the beginning of a writing piece. Grabbers can be a single word, a phrase, or a sentence or two that pulls the reader into your story.

- *C-R-E-A-K!! That sound sent cold chills up my spine as the door to the basement slowly began to swing open during the thunderstorm.*
- *There’s a killer in the ocean that is far worse than any great white shark: it destroys its victims with a slow, lingering death. The killer’s name is oil.*

**Zingers** — Zingers are just like grabbers, but they are used at the very end to add a little “something extra” to your writing. A zinger could be a song lyric, a line from a poem, a catchy phrase, or a direct comment, among other things.

- *Thanks, Dad, for saving my life!*
- *Shame on you, oil companies!*

**Sizzling vocabulary** — These pizzazzy words add drama, beauty, and maturity to your writing.

- ***Flamboyant. Precipitous. Sinewy. Aroma. Skedaddle. Plethora.***

**Voice** — When you add your own personality to your writing, it gives your writing a unique tone. We call this voice. You don’t want to overdo it: a little goes a long way. Try writing with your natural voice so you sound like the real you.

- *You think I care what she thinks? No way. She can go her way and I’ll go mine.*
- *Alligators are living, breathing, eating machines. Running into one in the water could be your worst nightmare. Whoo!*

**Passion** — Writing with intensity and enthusiasm impresses the reader and lets her know that this topic is important to you. This is one of the best qualities to showcase in your writing.

- *I realized that night that because of my own carelessness, I might die and so might my little sister. How could I have been so STUPID as to play with matches?*
- *We all live on this Earth together, so we need to be careful where we throw our garbage and dump our toxins. Do you realize that animals sometimes suffer because humans are THOUGHTLESS?*