

# Choosing More Interesting Words

Finding Synonyms  
for 'said'

Studyladder

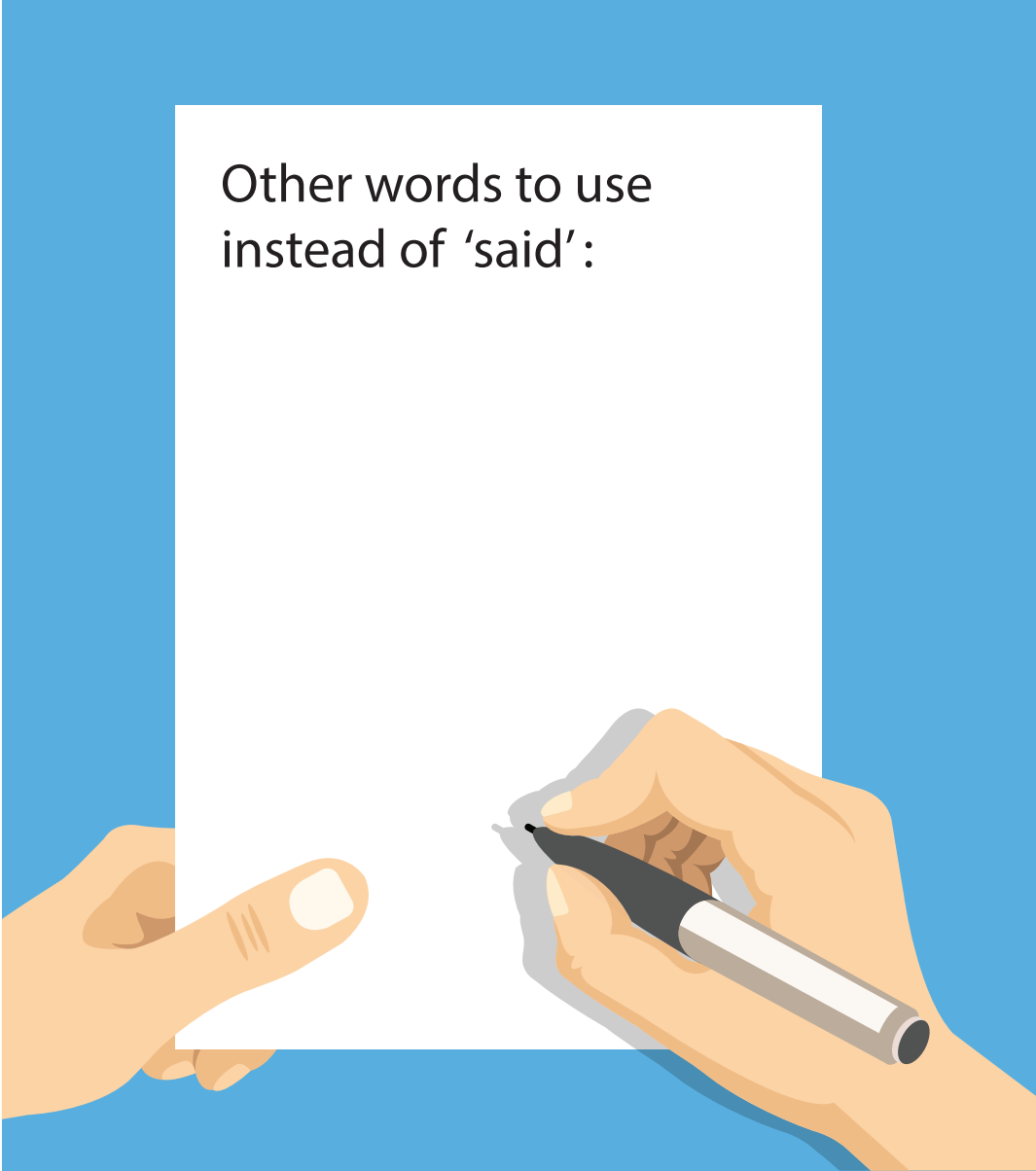


# Choosing More Interesting Words

When we use a lot of dialogue in our narratives it is important to let our readers know which character is speaking. We do this by adding the character's name and words like 'said', 'asked' or 'exclaimed.'

A lot of people over-use the word 'said' in dialogue. There are so many other more interesting words that we can use to describe how our characters 'said' something.

What are some different words you can use instead of 'said'?

An illustration showing two hands holding a white rectangular card against a blue background. The left hand is on the left side of the card, and the right hand is on the right side, holding a black marker. The card contains the text: "Other words to use instead of 'said':".

Other words to use  
instead of 'said':

# A Small Group/Paired Activity:

Scan through a chapter of a novel. Find the dialogue and look for words that the author has used instead of the word 'said'.

Write a list of these words and use a dictionary to find out their meaning.



Look for alternative 'said' words in this short text:

"Where is it?" muttered Harriet as she thumbed through the pile of papers on her desk. "I'm sure I put it here somewhere! Where is it?"

The door creaked open and a sleepy eyed Tim padded into the room.

"What are you looking for Mum?" asked Tim.

Harriet shook her head as she surveyed the mess on her desk. "Don't worry love, It's not important." replied Harriet. She placed her hand on Tim's head with a sigh and gently guided him out of the room.

"Let's get you back to bed. It's very late and you need your sleep."

"I'm not tired." Tim grumbled. "Can't I stay up with you? I'm good at finding lost things." he pleaded.