

# Word Choice for Precision and Effect

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Strong writers pick the most precise word. Instead of *walked*, you might say *trudged* (slow, heavy, weary), *strolled* (relaxed), or *marched* (with purpose). Each near-synonym carries a different shade — pick the one that fits the EXACT situation.

## PRACTICE

Choose the word that best matches the effect or meaning described. All four options are real words; only one is the most precise fit.

1. Which word best fits the EXACT situation?

After the long hike, Maya \_\_\_\_\_ across the muddy field toward camp.

- A. plodded
- B. trudged
- C. shuffled
- D. staggered

2. Which word BEST shows joyful excitement?

The puppy \_\_\_\_\_ toward its owner at the door.

- A. trotted
- B. scampered
- C. darted
- D. bounded

3. Replace the overused word **nice**. Which choice paints the most SPECIFIC picture of Grandma?

Grandma is a nice person.

- A. kindhearted
- B. agreeable
- C. generous
- D. pleasant

4. Which sentence shows the STRONGEST feeling of fear?

- A. He crept into the dark room, heart pounding.
- B. He walked into the dark room with shaking hands.
- C. He entered the dark room nervously.
- D. He tiptoed quietly into the dark room.



5. Which word fits the SERIOUS, dignified tone of a judge?  
*The judge \_\_\_\_\_ to the front of the courtroom.*
- A. ambled
  - B. marched
  - C. paced
  - D. strode
6. Replace **said** to show the speaker is ANGRY.
- A. muttered
  - B. barked
  - C. snapped
  - D. growled
7. Which word fits a GENTLE mood?  
*The little stream \_\_\_\_\_ between the smooth rocks.*
- A. trickled
  - B. murmured
  - C. rippled
  - D. gurgled
8. Which word is MOST precise for very hungry kids?  
*The hungry kids \_\_\_\_\_ their lunches in minutes.*
- A. nibbled
  - B. gulped
  - C. gobbled
  - D. devoured
9. Replace **big** in a story about a dangerous storm.
- A. massive
  - B. fierce
  - C. severe
  - D. towering
10. Which sentence uses the MOST vivid verbs to show kids playing?
- A. The kids ran and shouted in the yard.
  - B. The kids chased one another and giggled.
  - C. The kids raced, tumbled, and shrieked with laughter.
  - D. The kids leaped and called out happily.



# Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>10 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>
---	--

Explanations	
<b>1. B</b>	All four describe tired walking. <b>Trudged</b> = heavy, weary steps through difficult ground — fits BOTH the mud (effort) and the exhaustion. <i>Plodded</i> is slow and dull but does not stress the difficulty; <i>shuffled</i> means dragging feet (less effort, more lazy/old); <i>staggered</i> means unsteady, suggesting injury or dizziness, not just tiredness.
<b>2. D</b>	All four are real animal-movement verbs. <b>Bounded</b> = big, joyful leaps — captures the excitement. <i>Trotted</i> = steady, moderate pace (not specifically excited); <i>scampered</i> = small, quick, slightly skittish steps; <i>darted</i> = sudden, sharp movement (often startled or fearful).
<b>3. C</b>	All four are positive traits. <b>Generous</b> names a specific behavior (she gives freely). <i>Kindhearted</i> is close but vague — feelings, not action; <i>agreeable</i> means easy to get along with; <i>pleasant</i> describes a mild manner, not a strong trait.
<b>4. A</b>	All four hint at fear. <b>A</b> stacks two strong cues — <i>crept</i> (slow, cautious motion) PLUS <i>heart pounding</i> (physical fear). B has only the hands; C just names the feeling without showing it; D shows caution but no fear-feeling at all.
<b>5. D</b>	All four describe how an adult might walk. <b>Strode</b> = long, confident, serious steps — fits a judge. <i>Ambled</i> is too relaxed; <i>marched</i> is military/forceful, not judicial; <i>paced</i> means walking back and forth nervously, the wrong mood.
<b>6. C</b>	All four are anger-tinged speech verbs. <b>Snapped</b> = sharp, sudden, angry retort — fits everyday angry speech. <i>Muttered</i> is low and grumbling (annoyed, not openly angry); <i>barked</i> means shouting commands (more bossy than angry); <i>growled</i> is a low, threatening rumble (more intimidating than openly angry).
<b>7. A</b>	All four are gentle water verbs. <b>Trickled</b> = a thin, soft flow — perfect for a small stream between rocks. <i>Murmured</i> describes a soft sound, not the motion; <i>rippled</i> means small surface waves (better for a lake); <i>gurgled</i> emphasizes the bubbling sound, not the gentle flow.
<b>8. D</b>	All four are real eating verbs. <b>Devoured</b> = ate hungrily and completely — captures both speed and hunger. <i>Nibbled</i> means small, careful bites (opposite!); <i>gulped</i> usually applies to drinks or swallowing whole; <i>gobbled</i> is close (eat quickly) but lighter and a bit comic, missing the intensity.
<b>9. B</b>	All four are storm-friendly adjectives. <b>Fierce</b> captures the storm's violent power — its DANGER. <i>Massive</i> describes only size; <i>severe</i> is correct but formal/weather-report-flat; <i>towering</i> describes height (clouds) without the danger.
<b>10. C</b>	All four use action verbs. <b>C</b> stacks THREE precise, picture-painting verbs — <i>raced</i> , <i>tumbled</i> , <i>shrieked</i> . A's verbs are common; B has two ordinary verbs; D's verbs are clear but only two and milder.



## Want Even More Practice? Check Out Our Other Mississippi MAAP ELA Test Books!



Includes 5, 6, 7 & 8 Test Prep Books

### Mississippi MAAP Grade 4 ELA Preparation Bundle

26 full-length practice tests across four books (5 + 6 + 7 + 8)

*No repeated questions — maximum practice value!*

▼ DOWNLOAD INSTANTLY ▼



SCAN ME

*Point your phone camera at the code · instant access to all four books*

**26 Tests!**  
**4 Books**  
**One Bundle**

**Important:** All our test books contain **unique, completely different tests** from each other! Each book offers fresh practice questions — no repeats!

<h4>5 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 5 complete practice tests with detailed explanations</li> <li>✓ Perfect foundation for MAAP ELA prep</li> <li>✓ Builds confidence and test-taking skills</li> <li>✓ High-quality questions aligned with standards</li> </ul> <p><b>Start your practice journey!</b></p>	<h4>6 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6 complete practice tests with detailed explanations</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from the 5 tests book</li> <li>✓ Perfect for more practice after mastering 5 tests</li> <li>✓ Same high-quality questions aligned with standards</li> </ul> <p><b>Take your practice to the next level!</b></p>	<h4>7 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 7 complete practice tests for deeper preparation</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from 5 and 6 tests books</li> <li>✓ Builds stamina with full-length practice</li> <li>✓ Aligned to Grade 4 MAAP ELA standards</li> </ul> <p><b>Maximum preparation power!</b></p>	<h4>8 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 8 complete practice tests — our largest book</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from 5, 6 and 7 books</li> <li>✓ Great for final review before test day</li> <li>✓ Builds true test stamina and confidence</li> </ul> <p><b>Be fully prepared!</b></p>
--	--	--	---

Get the bundle at [EffortlessMath.com](https://www.EffortlessMath.com) — scan the QR code above to open the product page.