Words at Work

See how word choices make a field report precise.

10.L.V.2.d "Use knowledge of parts of speech to determine precise and effective words and phrases when constructing texts. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise verbs or verb phrases, circle two adjectives that make a noun more exact, and number one phrase that adds a specific condition or location. These choices show how parts of speech can make a report clear.

Repairing Willow Creek

1. At dawn, volunteers gathered beside the Willow Creek footbridge with gloves, shovels, and native willow cuttings. Heavy rain had torn away part of the bank, leaving muddy water to wash against exposed roots. The project leader inspected the unstable bank and chose a careful plan. A narrow path led from the school garden to the creek, so the team could carry supplies without crushing young plants. They would reinforce the bank before planting anything new. Clouds moved slowly above the empty playground. Nearby, buses waited.

2. Along the water, the volunteers layered fist-sized stones on the lower bank. They tucked coir logs beneath the lowest edge and drove wooden stakes through the netting. The crew did not merely put rocks near the water. Instead, they stabilized the slope with stakes, netting, and planted roots. A clipboard recorded the materials and the order of each task. When another group arrived, the leader pointed to the secured edge and assigned them to carry extra stones uphill. By late morning, the water moved past the new barrier without reaching the path.

3. By noon, the creek bank looked different, but the work was not finished. New willow cuttings stood in damp soil, and a temporary fence protected them from deer. In the final update, the leader wrote that the repaired bank was more stable during high water. She sent the update to the principal, who had approved the project. The report named the materials, described the work, and explained the result. Students returning to school could clearly see the protected plants from the bridge the next day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which adjective describes the bank in paragraph 1? What condition does that word communicate?

2. In paragraph 2, how do the verbs “layered” and “tucked” give a more exact picture than the verb “put”?

3. Name two precise verbs from paragraph 2 and explain what each one tells the reader the volunteers did.

4. In the final update, which modifier identifies the bank, and which prepositional phrase tells when its stability matters?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence update about preparing a school event. Use at least one precise verb, an adjective before a noun, and a prepositional phrase that tells where, when, or how. Underline the precise verb, circle the adjective-noun pair, and box the prepositional phrase.

Words at Work

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three precise verbs or verb phrases, circle two adjectives that make a noun more exact, and number one phrase that adds a specific condition or location. These choices show how parts of speech can make a report clear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which adjective describes the bank in paragraph 1? What condition does that word communicate?	**Unstable. It communicates that the bank is not secure and may shift or collapse.**
2	In paragraph 2, how do the verbs “layered” and “tucked” give a more exact picture than the verb “put”?	**Layered shows that stones were arranged in levels, and tucked shows that coir logs were placed beneath an edge. Put gives no such details.**
3	Name two precise verbs from paragraph 2 and explain what each one tells the reader the volunteers did.	**Answers may include layered, arranged stones in levels; tucked, placed logs beneath the edge; drove, forced stakes through netting; stabilized, made the slope more secure.**
4	In the final update, which modifier identifies the bank, and which prepositional phrase tells when its stability matters?	**The modifier is repaired, in “repaired bank.” The prepositional phrase is “during high water.”**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The stage crew _assembled_ a (portable platform) [before the concert]. Technicians _tested_ the microphones near the front curtain.

Accept accurate student writing that uses a specific action verb, an adjective that narrows the meaning of a noun, and a relevant prepositional phrase. Accept reasonable annotations and word choices that meet the stated parts-of-speech requirements.