

## USING STRONG AND PRECISE VERBS

### STRONG VERBS

Using strong and precise verbs can help the reader to better understand the action.

EX:

I got a gift. (Worse)

I bought a gift. (Better)

I purchased a gift. (Better)

I received a gift. (Better)

I accepted a gift. (Better)

I acquired a gift. (Better)

I found a gift. (Better)

Notice how the word "got" seems too general. Additionally, the word "got" does not provide a solid context for the reader. Notice how the suggestions below the example provide better contexts for understanding the action/the act. In fact, they provide much more specific contexts in relation to the subject and direct object.

### STRONG AND PRECISE REPORTING VERBS

One of the most significant situations for using strong and precise is delivering reporting verbs inside of signal phrases.

Dr. Tenison says "Why do people seek children in the midst of complex relationships?" (Worse)

Rather than simply providing the reader with a general reporting verb such as "Says" or "States," the writer could use other words such as:

Dr. Tenison asks "Why do people seek children in the midst of complex relationships?" (Better)

Dr. Tenison posits the question: "Why do people seek children in the midst of complex relationships?" (Better)

Dr. Tenison considers: "Why do people seek children in the midst of complex relationships?" (Better)

Again, notice how the word "Says" can be replaced with significantly better choices, which provide the audience with much more specific contexts for the quoted/paraphrased information.