

Painting with *Words.*

3

Adjectives & Adverbs

Today we add color — without crowding the canvas.

- before we open our notebooks

Our essential question

“

*How do we choose the right adjectives and adverbs **to paint a vivid picture** — without crowding the sentence?*

learning objective

*We will **enhance** base sentences by adding sensory adjectives and targeted adverbs — while **cutting modifier clutter** and killing redundancy.*

this is week three

Unit one

Foundations of Craft

- warm-up · five minutes

*Make the sentence **feel** more.*

Add one sensory adjective and one targeted adverb to last week's strong sentence.

the base
sentence

The astronaut sprinted to the rocket.

take one

*The **terrified** astronaut sprinted **frantically** to the rocket.*

panic + speed — but not a lot of paint.

take two

*The **exhausted** astronaut sprinted **hesitantly** to the **glowing** rocket.*

slower pace, brighter object — same skeleton.

*Notice — two modifiers change the **whole mood**.*

Three small rules *before we paint.*

Last week we built our strong skeleton. This week, we add color — without crowding it.

01

Rule one

Don't double-up.

"Sprinted ~~quickly~~" already means fast.

Use adverbs for *mood* or *manner* — not as a synonym for the verb.

02

Rule two

Reach for the senses.

Swap ~~big-bad-seary~~ for what the body actually feels — ~~frost-covered~~, ~~deafening~~, ~~jagged~~.

03

Rule three

Modifiers on purpose.

No more than
2 adjectives + 1 adverb
per sentence.

Everything past three — edit one out.

*Too much paint ruins the canvas — but a careful brushstroke **changes everything.***

The *four* levels of a sentence.

01

Level one

Weak / Bare

The dog went across the yard.

02

Level two

Strong Skeleton

*The **hound dashed** across the yard.*

03

Level three

CLUTTERED

The huge, big, brown hound dashed super extremely fast across the green yard.

04

Level four • our goal

**Painted
Just Right**

*The **mud-splattered** hound dashed **recklessly** across the **frosted** yard.*

- guided practice · ten minutes

The Sentence Doctor — case one.

*A patient arrived **too cluttered**. Listen for the repeats.*

before

*The ~~tiny~~ ~~little~~ mouse ~~quietly~~ crept
~~very slowly~~ into the ~~dark black~~ room.*

too many words saying the same thing — twice.

after

*The **itty-bitty** mouse crept **silently**
into the **shadowed** room.*

three modifiers — each one earning its place.

diagnosis

*Repeating words: **tiny** / **little**, **quietly** / **slowly**, **dark** / **black**. Cut the half that just repeats the other — the survivor becomes the sensory detail.*

The Sentence Doctor — case two.

*A second patient arrived **too bare**. The skeleton is fine — but it needs color.*

before

*The monster stood in the
cave.*

bones, no skin — the scene barely exists.

after

*The **slime-coated** monster stood
menacingly in the **echoing** cave.*

now the cave holds its breath.

diagnosis

*The sentence needs sensation — **touch** (slime-coated), **mood** (menacingly), **sound** (echoing). Three senses — one scene.*

Open your notebook — we'll do this together.

1

Pick two

Choose two base sentences from the board (or last week's notebook).

2

Upgrade it

Strengthen the **noun** and the **verb** first (last week's skill).

3

Paint just enough

Add at most **2 adjectives** and **1 adverb**. Each one earns its place.

4

Expand one

Take the stronger sentence and grow it into a **5 — 6 sentence scene**.

three base sentences to start from

a *The detective looked through the drawer.*

b *The storm hit the small town.*

c *The dragon flew over the mountain.*

Highlight, then trim.

Mark each adjective yellow, each adverb green — and count.

YELLOW

adjectives (the nouns)

GREEN

adverbs (how / mood)

a patient · in budget

The frost-covered hound dashed recklessly across the snow-packed yard.

the rule

*If a sentence has **more than three** highlighted words — **edit one out**. Three is brave. Four is crowded.*

Wrap-up — and a last small task.

pair-share

read aloud to a neighbor

*Read your upgraded sentence. Have your neighbor name your **best sensory adjective**.*

exit ticket

Trim this

"The very angry coach shouted loudly at the bad team."

1 verb

1 adjective

1 adverb

Sticky note or notebook footer — whichever is closest to your hand.

Less is almost always more — especially on a sticky.

- before next class · a small mystery

The 30-Word Object Snap.

your assignment

*Choose one unusual object in your home — an old shoe, an antique clock, a bruised apple, a tangled pair of headphones. Write **30 to 40 words** describing it as if it were **a clue in a mystery**.*

then mark your draft:

O *your favorite noun*

A *your action verb*

□ *2 sensory adjectives*

★ *1 purposeful adverb*

one writer's pick:



an old pocket watch — but yours could be a sock, a coin, or the chipped handle of a teacup.



*A careful brush **at a**
time.*

*Not a sentence louder — but a sentence **more true.***

what we practiced

Cut doubles.

Reach for the senses.

Trim what's past three.

