Name _____ Date _____

Wow words

Swap a plain word for one that shows exactly what happens.

1 Learn



Words like **went**, **said** and **nice** are plain. They don't tell the reader much. A **wow word** shows **exactly how** something happened.

Three animals ~~went~~ across the snow. Look at their footprints!



crept
small, quiet steps close together

dashed
fast, with big gaps

stomped
heavy, loud steps

Watch Flip fix a sentence: The mouse went across the kitchen.

1. Find the plain word: **went**.
2. Ask: who is it, and how would it move? *A mouse is small and wants to stay hidden.*
3. Pick a word that fits: **crept** or **scurried**. Not ~~stomped~~: that's far too loud!
4. Read it back: The mouse **crept** across the kitchen.

Flip's tip: a wow word must **fit**. Ask, "Does this word match who is doing it and how?" A fancy word that doesn't fit is no better than a plain one.

Warm up: in each pair, draw a ring round the word that tells you more.

said · whispered tiptoed · went nice · delicious enormous · big

Grown-ups: read the footprints together and ask, "Which animal might have made each trail?" Then talk through Flip's four steps. The key question is always "Who is doing it, and how?"

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Act it, then say it!

You need: 6 small scraps of paper, a pencil and a cup or bowl.

1. Write one character on each scrap: **a snail, a giant, a rocket, a cat, a ghost, a baby**. Fold them and put them in the cup.
2. Pick one. The grown-up says the plain sentence: **"The ___ went to the shop."**
3. The child acts out how that character would move. Together, find a wow word for **went** that fits.
4. For the next round, use **"said"** instead: **"Hello," said the ___.** How would that character speak?
5. Write your best words in the table. Tick if you both agree the word fits.

Character	Plain word	Our wow word	Fits? ✓
	went		
	went		
	said		
	said		

Grown-ups: try a silly one too, like a giant that "tiptoed". Ask, "Could that work? When?" (Only if the giant is trying very hard to be quiet!) Words can surprise readers, as long as they make sense.

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the word that fits best. Think: who is doing it, and how?

1. The tiny mouse (stomped) (crept) (marched) under the door.
2. "Help!" (whispered) (mumbled) (screamed) Leo as the boat tipped over.
3. The hungry dog (nibbled) (gobbled) (sipped) its dinner in seconds.
4. Mia (strolled) (crawled) (raced) to the finish line and won.
5. The ice cream was cold and (creamy) (crunchy) (prickly).

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B. Sort the wow words. Write each one under the plain word it could replace.

whispered | dashed | delicious | enormous | shouted | crept | cosy | gigantic

went	said	nice	big

C. Write a wow word in place of the plain word in brackets.

1. The giant _____ down the hill. (went)
2. "Shh, the baby is asleep," _____ Dad. (said)
3. We ate a _____ picnic on the beach. (nice)
4. The _____ whale swam past our boat. (big)

D. Make this sentence better with **two** wow words: *The cat went to its nice bed.*

Challenge

Sam wrote: *"The shy little mouse **stomped** across the floor."* He says **stomped** is better than **went** because it's a wow word. Is he right? What would you write?

I can... Tick when you can.

- [ ] spot plain words like went, said and nice
- [ ] choose a wow word that fits who is doing it and how
- [ ] explain why my word is better