

Type of Sensory	Vague Sentence	Vivid Sentence	Explanation
Taste	The candy was sour.	My taste buds recoiled from the sudden tartness, drawing my lips into a pucker.	Just saying sour does not fully describe the painful experience of eating a candy that is exceptionally sour.
Smell	I smell something weird.	The odor attacked my nostrils; It was a disgusting mix of rotten eggs, wet dog, and dirty diapers.	Weird could describe numerous unusual smells. The added detail in the second sentence specifically describes the scent of the smell and just how terribly smelly it is.

Too many adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or modify nouns. Retain only the most powerful words in your writing, deleting any unnecessary words.

The tiny, fluffy, soft, furry cat made a cute, weird, funny sound. ➡ The tiny, fluffy cat made a cute sound.

Explanation: Reducing the amount of adjectives used to describe cat and sound creates a more specific image, concrete image.



Too many adverbs

Adverbs are descriptors applied to adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs. Verbs are stronger than adverbs.

The dog chewed his food rapidly. ⇒ The dog devoured his food.

Explanation: The wording of *chewed rapidly* only implies that the dog ate quickly. It does not add a deeper level of detail to the picture. Using *devoured* instead of *chewed rapidly* is a more specific image. It tells your reader that the dog was both extremely hungry and ate quickly.

Clichéd figures of speech

Overused language signals a lack of imagination in your writing. To keep readers engaged, you must present new and interesting language.

She had eyes on the back of her head. ⇒ She must have been using echolocation, like a bat or a dolphin. That is the only way she would know Ricky and I were cheating on the test.

Explanation: This wording is fresh compared to the cliché phrase, so it catches the reader's attention and causes them to think more about your writing.