

## Enlightening Expressions

### Purpose

Students will generate a variety of word choices to use in writing.

### Materials

*For the teacher:* chalk, chalkboard

*For each student:* copy of Black Line Master (BLM) *Telling Words*

### Activity

#### A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Ask students why they think word choice matters in writing, and write their responses on the chalkboard.
2. Make sure that students have noted that word choice makes writing more interesting, clearer, and more descriptive.

#### B. Whole Class Fun

1. Draw a table with two columns on the chalkboard. Write the heading “General” on one column and “Specific” on the other.
2. Write five general words/phrases under the “General” column, such as “hot,” “cold,” “many,” “pretty,” and “bored.”
3. Ask students to think of a few creative ways to say the same things. Write their responses on the chalkboard under the “Specific” column.
4. Ask for volunteers to create more examples. Allow them to put their words/phrases in the proper categories on the chalkboard.

#### C. Apply What Students Have Learned

1. Pass out the BLM *Telling Words*.
2. Explain to students that they will think of some creative words on their own.



#### MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Help students by giving them more concrete examples. Have students make signs for objects in the classroom that have general and specific names, such as “desk” and “Teacher’s (your name) desk.”



#### connecting across the curriculum

#### Visual Arts

Have students draw scenic pictures. Instruct them to write descriptive words or phrases on the back of their pictures that explain what is happening.

**Standards Links**  
5.1.3, 5.7.9


## Questions for Review


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### Basic Concepts and Processes

Ask students the following questions as they work on the BLM

*Telling Words:*

 Why is it important to use more specific words when writing?

 How do you go about thinking of a more specific word?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Telling Words

Directions: Fill in the chart below.  
Some blanks call for more general words, and others require you to think of more specific words.

General	Specific
Fun	
	Thrill ride
	Freshly squeezed lemonade
Animal	
Tired	
Lazy	
	Kind-hearted
	Sizzling hot
	Fiery temper
Okay	

# Telling Words

## Teacher Directions

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Pass out the BLM *Telling Words*. Read through the directions with students. Explain that sometimes it helps to look in a dictionary or thesaurus for synonyms. Remind students that synonyms are words that mean the same thing.

## Answer Key

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Answers will vary. Check to make sure that students fill out the boxes with the appropriate words.