

Replace the Word 'Very' with One of These 128 Modifiers



Do you remember high school English class very well? If so, you likely spotted the flaw in that sentence. If you didn't, here's a refresher: As our composition teachers told us long ago, the modifier "very" is lazy and imprecise—and some of America's most prominent writers can vouch for that assessment.

[Florence King](#), the sharp-tongued American novelist, essayist, and columnist, [reportedly once wrote](#): "'Very' is the most useless word in the English language and can always come out. More than useless, it is treacherous because it invariably weakens what it is intended to strengthen." As for Mark Twain, he [advised writers](#) to "Substitute 'damn' every time you're inclined to write 'very'; Your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be."

There's always a stronger, more vivid word to describe something, which is why [Lifehacker recently posted](#) the infographic below, created by the editing pros over at [ProofreadingServices.com](#). It lists 128 adjectives you can use instead of the dreaded "V" word. Peruse the full list, and refer back to it later if you're still struggling to conjure the perfect phrase.



128 WORDS TO USE INSTEAD OF "VERY"

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Don't say
very accurate



Say
exact

very afraid
very angry
very annoying
very bad
very beautiful
very big
very boring
very bright
very busy

fearful
furious
exasperating
awful
gorgeous
massive
dull
luminous
swamped

very calm
very careful
very cheap
very clean
very clear
very cold
very colorful
very competitive
very complete

serene
cautious
stingy
spotless
obvious
freezing
vibrant
cutthroat
comprehensive

very confused
very creative
very crowded
very dangerous
very dear
very deep
very depressed
very detailed
very different

perplexed
innovative
bustling
perilous
cherished
profound
despondent
meticulous
disparate

very difficult
very dirty
very dry
very dull
very easy
very empty
very excited
very exciting
very expensive

arduous
filthy
arid
tedious
effortless
desolate
thrilled
exhilarating
costly

Don't say
very cute



Say
adorable

Don't say
very fast



Say
swift

very fancy
very fat
very friendly
very frightened
very frightening
very funny
very glad
very good
very great

lavish
obese
amiable
alarmed
terrifying
hilarious
overjoyed
excellent
terrific

very happy
very hard
very hard-to-find
very heavy
very high
very hot
very huge
very hungry
very hurt

ecstatic
difficult
rare
leaden
soaring
sweltering
colossal
starving
battered

very important
very intelligent
very interesting
very large
very lazy
very little
very long
very long-term
very loose

crucial
brilliant
captivating
huge
indolent
tiny
extensive
enduring
slack

very mean
very messy
very necessary
very nervous
very nice
very noisy
very often
very old
very old-fashioned

cruel
slovenly
essential
apprehensive
kind
deafening
frequently
ancient
archaic

Don't say
very loud



Say
thunderous

Don't say
very slow



Say
sluggish

very open
very painful
very pale
very perfect
very poor
very powerful
very pretty
very quick
very quiet

transparent
excruciating
ashen
flawless
destitute
compelling
beautiful
rapid
hushed

very rainy
very rich
very sad
very scared
very scary
very serious
very sharp
very shiny
very short

pouring
wealthy
sorrowful
petrified
chilling
grave
keen
gleaming
brief

very shy
very simple

timid
basic

very stupid
very sure

idiotic
certain

very unhappy
very upset

miserable
distracted

very skinny
very small
very smart
very smelly
very smooth
very soft
very sorry
very special
very strong

skeletal
petite
intelligent
pungent
sleek
downy
apologetic
exceptional
forceful

very sweet
very talented
very tall
very tasty
very thirsty
very tight
very tiny
very tired
very ugly

thoughtful
gifted
towering
delicious
parched
constricting
minuscule
exhausted
hideous

very warm
very weak
very well-to-do
very wet
very wide
very willing
very windy
very wise
very worried

hot
frail
wealthy
soaked
expansive
eager
blustery
sage
distressed

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