

## ACTIVE VERBS LIST

The more specific your language, the more powerful your writing will be. If you find generic verbs while revising, challenge yourself to trade them in for one that allows the reader to visualize the scene better.

### Agree

Nod  
Consent  
Comply  
Concur  
Accept  
Acknowledge

### Appear

Show  
Flash  
Materialize  
Surface  
Bloom  
Flower  
Manifest  
Surface  
Emerge  
Develop  
Spawn  
Arrive  
Arise

### Ask

Request  
Question  
Inquire  
Pose  
Proposition  
Solicit  
Plead  
Cross-examine  
Demand  
Grill  
Interrogate  
Needle  
Query  
Quiz

### Attack

Assault  
Strike  
Ambush  
Assail  
Rush

Storm  
Bombard  
Barrage  
Smite  
Charge  
Molest  
Waylay  
Clobber  
Battle  
Batter  
Hammer  
Beat  
Beset  
Combat  
Overwhelm  
Raid

### Attempt

Try  
Endeavor  
Undertake  
Strive  
Tackle  
Embark  
Shot  
Strive  
Seek  
Gamble  
Chance  
Venture

### Break

Crack  
Rupture  
Smash  
Shatter  
Fracture  
Splinter  
Pulverize  
Tear  
Rend  
Snap  
Burst  
Explode  
Bust

Damage  
Fragment  
Split (see SPLIT)

### Bring

Fetch  
Gather  
Retrieve  
Return  
Carry  
Deliver  
Lug  
Fetch  
Gather  
Guide  
Pack  
Tote  
Convey  
Import  
Pick up

### Build

Erect  
Raise  
Frame  
Shape  
Firm  
Construct  
Layer  
Stack  
Reinforce  
Fortify  
Create  
Fashion  
Form

### Bump

Nudge  
Tap  
Jostle  
Jar  
Knock  
Jolt  
Thump  
Butt

Clatter  
Strike  
Whack  
Slam  
Rap

### Call

Summon  
Shout  
Request  
Cry  
Yell  
Scream  
Holler  
Utter  
Exclaim  
Hail  
Signal  
Bellow  
Bawl  
Roar  
Proclaim

### Change

Shift  
Transform  
Modify  
Twist  
Mutate  
Distort  
Blur  
Flux  
Adjust  
Switch  
Fluctuate  
Warp  
Alter  
Adapt  
Evolve  
Reform  
Vary

### Chase

Hunt  
Trail  
Pursue  
Track  
Follow  
Stalk  
Shadow  
Hound  
Case

### Choose

Pick  
Draw  
Select  
Vote  
Opt  
Pluck  
Prefer  
Winnow  
Determine

### Climb

Mount  
Ascend  
Rise  
Shimmy  
Scramble  
Scale  
Heave  
Spring  
Top  
Crest

### Close

Shut  
Seal  
Shutter  
Slam  
Fasten  
Sheathe  
Fold  
Batten  
Cage  
Secure  
Batten  
Lock down  
Plug

### Collect

Gather  
Corral  
Garner  
Group  
Hoard  
Scrape  
Stockpile  
Reap  
Harvest  
Amass  
Accrue  
Assemble

Compile  
Save  
Cache  
Store

### Come

Approach  
Arrive  
Enter  
Advance  
Converge  
Meet  
Appear  
Show up  
Attend

### Cover

Shelter  
Cloak  
Shroud  
Enclose  
Clothe  
Screen  
Conceal  
Hide  
Disguise  
Mask  
Bury  
Smother  
Crust  
Cloud  
Shield  
Shade  
Film  
Seal  
Envelop  
Veil  
Wrap  
Blanket  
Obscure  
Curtain (see HIDE)

### Cross

Traverse  
Pass  
Ford  
Bridge  
Glide  
Cut over

### Cry

Howl

Whimper  
Call  
Scream  
Shriek  
Squeal  
Roar  
Mewl  
Hoot  
Squall  
Wail  
Holler  
Yelp  
Bawl  
Screech  
Yammer  
Whoop  
Bray  
Cheer  
Yell  
Shout  
Trill

### **Cut**

Cleave  
Chop  
Chip  
Sever  
Slice  
Snip  
Divide  
Prune  
Trim  
Split  
Axe  
Slash  
Rend  
Tear  
Thin  
Crop  
Carve  
Dissect  
Hack  
Hew  
Nick  
Pierce  
Saw  
Score  
Shave  
Shear

### **Dig**

Mine

Delve  
Excavate  
Burrow  
Drill  
Core  
Hollow  
Rout  
Unearth  
Gouge  
Tunnel  
Exhume  
Dredge up

### **Drag**

Draw  
Pull  
Lug  
Haul  
Tow  
Tote  
Trawl  
Yank  
Trail  
Tug  
Yarn  
Transport

### **Enter**

Penetrate  
Invade  
Board  
Access  
Barge in  
Burst into  
Trespass  
Drop in  
Wander  
Infiltrate  
Intrude  
Encroach  
Pierce

### **Escape**

Evade  
Flee  
Avoid  
Bail  
Run  
Elude  
Clear out  
Dodge  
Duck

Bolt  
Sidestep  
Scramble  
Leave  
Slip out  
Sneak away (see LEAVE)

### **Fall**

Tumble  
Collapse  
Spill  
Plunge  
Crumple  
Pitch  
Crash  
Drop  
Buckle  
Plummet  
Slant  
Slip  
Dive  
Stumble  
Topple  
Sink  
Slump  
Trip

### **Fight**

Battle  
Tussle  
Wrestle  
Scuffle  
Duel  
Brawl  
Joust  
Spar  
War  
Clash  
Grapple  
Scrap  
Quarrel  
Struggle  
Assault  
Attack  
Feud  
Skirmish

### **Find**

Discover  
Locate  
Detect  
Notice

Catch  
Obtain  
Solve  
Acquire  
Uncover  
Unearth  
Reveal  
Expose

### **Fit**

Set  
Rig  
Cram  
Place  
Nest  
Mold  
Blend  
Wedge  
Implant  
Lock  
Apply  
Arrange  
Stuff  
Force  
Jam  
Pack  
Press  
Pound  
Settle

### **Fix**

Repair  
Patch  
Mend  
Cure  
Service  
Darn  
Cobble  
Rebuild  
Tinker  
Refit  
Maintain  
Renovate  
Improve  
Correct  
Doctor  
Restore

### **Get**

Take  
Receive  
Catch

Gain  
Obtain  
Earn  
Reap  
Gather  
Score  
Win  
Acquire  
Accomplish  
Procure  
Attain  
Elicit  
Extract  
Fetch  
Inherit  
Secure

### **Give**

Gift  
Pass  
Toss  
Hand  
Deliver  
Distribute  
Offer  
Donate  
Bestow  
Grant  
Parcel out  
Sacrifice  
Award  
Bequeath  
Confer  
Dispense  
Present

### **Grab**

Take  
Steal  
Snatch  
Seize  
Clutch  
Hook  
Grip  
Net  
Snag  
Arrest  
Apprehend  
Appropriate  
Claim  
Grapple  
Trap

Catch  
Snap up  
Nick  
Wrench  
Pluck

### **Help**

Aid  
Support  
Assist  
Comfort  
Boost  
Further  
Relieve  
Attend  
Nurture  
Advise  
Guide  
Encourage  
Heal  
Advocate  
Befriend  
Intercede  
Save  
Serve

### **Hide**

Conceal  
Obscure  
Cover  
Disguise  
Mask  
Hole up  
Squirrel away  
Stash  
Smuggle  
Stow  
Bury  
Camouflage  
Protect  
Screen (See COVER)

### **Hit**

Bash  
Smack  
Slap  
Slash  
Slam  
Punch  
Clap  
Bump  
Swing

Slug  
Poke  
Wallop  
Knock  
Slam  
Drill  
Smoke  
Deck  
Ram  
Strike  
Beat  
Clobber  
Flog  
Pound  
Swat  
Whack

### Hold

Cradle  
Grasp  
Support  
Bolster  
Carry  
Prop  
Shoulder  
Shelter  
Handle  
Grip  
Clasp  
Clench  
Clutch  
Squeeze

### Hurry

Speed  
Rush  
Hustle  
Scamper  
Pelt  
Scurry  
Bolt  
Bustle  
Dash  
Advance  
Glide  
Cruise  
Sweep  
Zip  
Slide  
Scuttle  
Expedite  
Hasten

Quicken

### Join

Meld  
Blend  
Weld  
Hinge  
Staple  
Pin  
Splice  
Couple  
Seam  
Stitch  
Tether  
Unite  
Marry  
Knit  
Bridge  
Add  
Graft  
Glue  
Cement  
Merge  
Adhere  
Affix  
Attach  
Combine  
Fasten  
Fuse  
Link  
Pair  
Weave

### Jump

Leap  
Bounce  
Spring  
Vault  
Bound  
Hop  
Hurdle  
Pounce  
Trounce  
Skip  
Lurch  
Surge  
Leapfrog

### Kick

Boot  
Punt  
Dropkick

### Know

Sense  
Perceive  
Detect  
Intuit  
Feel  
Realize  
Understand  
Identify  
Discern

### Lay

Deposit  
Set  
Place  
Position  
Rest  
Plant  
Settle  
Nest  
Lodge  
Seat  
Spread  
Drop  
Put

### Leave

Depart  
Abandon  
Set forth  
Vacate  
Quit  
Maroon  
Evacuate  
Take off  
Ditch  
Forsake  
Split  
Scram  
Withdraw  
Disappear  
Defect  
Exit  
Retire (see ESCAPE)

### Lessen

Fade  
Bleed  
Evaporate  
Shrink  
Wane

Shrivel  
Slacken  
Curb  
Weaken  
Taper  
Dampen  
Deplete  
Lighten  
Limit  
Trim  
Reduce  
Curb  
Cull  
Dwindle  
Blunt  
Abate  
Minimize  
Diminish  
Curtail  
Cut back  
Decrease  
Mitigate  
Thin out

### Lift

Raise/Rise  
Hoist  
Heave  
Elevate  
Winch  
Heft  
Crane  
Hike  
Boost  
Jack up  
Mount  
Uphold

### Listen

Hear  
Eavesdrop  
Heed  
Attend  
Mind  
Monitor  
Overhear  
Tune in  
Catch

### Look

Eye  
Gawk

Stare  
Watch  
Peek  
Ogle  
Browse  
Glimpse  
Leer  
Glance  
Peep  
Squint  
Scan  
Seek  
Notice  
See  
Focus  
Behold (See WATCH)

### Make

Fashion  
Invent  
Forge  
Brew  
Create  
Form  
Sculpt  
Assemble  
Mold  
Combine  
Beget  
Conceive  
Design  
Forge  
Produce  
Shape

### Move

Slide  
Shift  
Jar  
Maneuver  
Position  
Nudge  
Budge  
Pop out  
Work at  
Displace  
Relocate  
Tap  
Fiddle  
Jiggle  
Manipulate  
Push

Prod  
Twist

### Need

Require  
Demand  
Exact  
Claim (see WANT)

### Open

Spread  
Unfold  
Peel  
Unzip  
Reveal  
Widen  
Expose  
Gape  
Bare  
Expand  
Unbolt  
Unlock  
Unhinge  
Unfasten  
Uncover  
Unfurl  
Unroll  
Display  
Uncork  
Undo  
Free  
Release

### Play

Dabble  
Act  
Gambol  
Flirt  
Caper  
Toy  
Maneuver  
Frolic  
Entertain  
Cavort  
Clown  
Rejoice  
Romp  
Dally  
Frisk  
Joke  
Kid  
Tease

**Pick**

Gather  
Collect  
Pluck  
Select  
Bag  
Clasp  
Grasp  
Hook  
Harvest  
Cull

**Push**

Shove  
Press  
Nudge  
Drive  
Prod  
Poke  
Elbow  
Jostle  
Knock  
Strain  
Thrust  
Crowd  
Jam  
Squish  
Bulldoze  
Force  
Crush  
Encourage  
Impel  
Muscle  
Propel

**Remember**

Recall  
Memorialize  
Recognize  
Recollect  
Call to mind  
Revive  
Think back to  
Flash back to  
Reminisce about

**Ride**

Gallop  
Jockey  
Mount  
Surf

Cruise  
Speed  
Coast  
Glide

**Rub**

Chafe  
Nuzzle  
Caress  
Grind  
Smudge  
Smear  
Scrub  
Lather  
Polish  
Knead  
Scrape  
Scour  
Stroke  
Massage  
Smooth  
Buff  
Graze  
Brush  
Touch  
Caress  
Scrub  
Smooth  
Wipe (see TOUCH)

**Run**

Gallop  
Trot  
Race  
Streak  
Lope  
Scurry  
Scamper  
Jog  
Dash  
Scuttle  
Rush  
Stampede  
Jet  
Dart  
Scoot  
Speed  
Sprint  
Canter  
Amble  
Scoot  
Barrel

Flee  
Fly  
Hustle  
Pelt

**Say**

Speak  
Articulate  
Yammer  
Blubber  
Blab  
Address  
Mouth  
Utter  
Murmur  
Mutter  
Stammer  
Swear  
Curse  
Rant  
Rave  
Jabber  
Converse  
Discuss  
Whisper  
Snarl  
Stutter  
Banter  
Chant  
Chat  
Dictate  
Drone  
Drawl  
Spout  
Jibber  
Sputter  
Yell

**Search**

Quest  
Forage  
Hunt  
Rummage  
Seek  
Probe  
Delve  
Scout  
Scour  
Investigate  
Ferret  
Browse  
Pursue

Explore  
Ransack  
Sift  
Dig  
Examine  
Inquire

### **Send**

Ship  
Cast  
Maneuver  
Transport  
Broadcast  
Transfer  
Radiate  
Channel  
Route  
Volley  
Transmit  
Relay  
Wire  
Publish

### **Shake**

Shiver  
Convulse  
Quiver  
Quake  
Tremble  
Totter  
Judder  
Vibrate  
Rattle  
Jolt  
Churn  
Shudder  
Tremor  
Slosh  
Agitate  
Quaver  
Thrash  
Flutter  
Jerk  
Twitch  
Spasm  
Lurch  
Squirm  
Twinge  
Palpitate  
Throb  
Ripple

### **Sit**

Recline  
Squat  
Perch  
Roost  
Rest  
Sprawl  
Straddle  
Crouch  
Huddle  
Slouch  
Lounge  
Flop  
Laze  
Plop  
Park  
Hunker  
Relax  
Settle

### **Split**

Part  
Cleave  
Chop  
Rupture  
Hack  
Sever  
Slit  
Carve  
Cut  
Divide  
Halve  
Break  
Sunder  
Separate  
Rend  
Rip

### **Start**

Begin  
Jump  
Launch  
Embark  
Enter  
Set out  
Dawn  
Plunge  
Erupt  
Birth  
Spring  
Sally  
Activate

Initiate  
Commence  
Initiate  
Pioneer

### **Stop**

Retire  
Halt  
Cease  
Quit  
Stall  
Pause  
End  
Hitch  
Finish  
Rein  
Freeze  
Suspend  
Hold  
Belay  
Terminate  
Desist  
Conclude  
Discontinue  
Refrain

### **Throw**

Hurl  
Flip  
Toss  
Fling  
Propel  
Sling  
Chuck  
Heave  
Launch  
Fire  
Catapult  
Pitch  
Thrust  
Volley  
Cast  
Discharge  
Lob  
Pelt  
Peg

### **Touch**

Feel  
Caress  
Brush  
Fondle



Glove  
Palm  
Smooth  
Stroke  
Tickle  
Dab  
Finger  
Graze  
Pat  
Pet (see RUB)

### Trap

Imprison  
Snare  
Corner  
Entangle  
Hold  
Pin  
Catch  
Restrain  
Bind  
Hook  
Snag  
Snatch  
Clutch  
Pinch  
Chain  
Cage  
Surround  
Handcuff  
Shackle  
Capture

### Turn

Twist  
Tilt  
Round  
Lean  
Crank  
Swerve  
Switch  
Swing  
Swirl  
Twirl  
Swivel  
Pivot  
Whirl  
Curl  
Circle  
Fork  
Sway  
Spin

Revolve  
Bend  
Loop  
Rotate

### Use

Wield  
Handle  
Work  
Employ  
Adopt  
Practice  
Manipulate  
Operate  
Utilize

### Visit

Haunt  
Frequent  
Attend  
Call on  
Tour  
Court  
Drop in

### Wait

Delay  
Pause  
Linger  
Remain  
Stay  
Hold  
Stand  
Adhere  
Haunt  
Bide  
Loiter  
Hover  
Roost  
Settle  
Lag  
Pause  
Perch  
Tarry  
Dwell  
Dally  
Hang out  
Idle  
Hesitate  
Procrastinate

### Walk

Coast  
Pad  
Amble  
Saunter  
Stroll  
Strut  
Swagger  
Trudge  
Stride  
Tiptoe  
Creep  
Sneak  
Stamp  
Clump  
Tramp  
Parade  
Plod  
Slog  
Limp  
Totter  
Glide  
Pace  
March  
Shuffle  
Lurch  
Trample  
Prowl  
Mosey  
Toddle  
Slink  
Scamper  
Clomp  
Lumber  
Scoot  
Roam  
Waddle

### Want

Desire  
Thirst  
Crave  
Long for  
Lust  
Covet  
Hunger  
Pine  
Yearn  
Wish  
Ache  
Dream (see NEED)

### Wash

Clean  
Bathe  
Launder  
Rinse  
Sluice  
Scrub  
Lather  
Shower  
Cleanse  
Buff  
Freshen up  
Scour  
Shampoo  
Soak  
Soap  
Swab

### Watch

Spy  
View  
Witness  
Monitor  
Keep tabs  
Spot  
Detect  
Attend  
Follow  
Regard  
Scope  
Scrutinize  
Survey  
Observe  
Contemplate  
Examine  
Inspect  
Note  
Observe  
Stare (see LOOK)

### Whisper

Mutter  
Murmur  
Mouth  
Mumble  
Wheeze  
Confide

### Wonder

Muse  
Ponder

Consider  
Dwell  
Debate  
Mull  
Study  
Ruminate  
Weigh  
Question  
Doubt  
Meditate  
Speculate  
Puzzle  
Think

### Laugh

Giggle  
Snicker  
Snigger  
Howl  
Titter  
Chuckle  
Roared  
Snort  
Cackle

### Say

Call  
Whisper  
Respond  
Question  
Remark  
Ask  
Demand  
Reply  
Exclaim  
Offer  
Mention  
State

### Talk

Converse  
Gossip  
Joke  
Speak  
Communicate  
Chat  
Engage  
Boast

### Like

Enjoy  
Prefer  
Adore  
Love  
Admire  
Appreciate  
Savor

### Lose

Misplace  
Drop  
Forget

### Grow

Mature  
Develop  
Bloom  
Expand  
Balloon  
Swell  
Stretch  
Blossom  
Ripen  
Enlarge  
Inflate  
Flesh out  
Spread  
Widen  
Increase

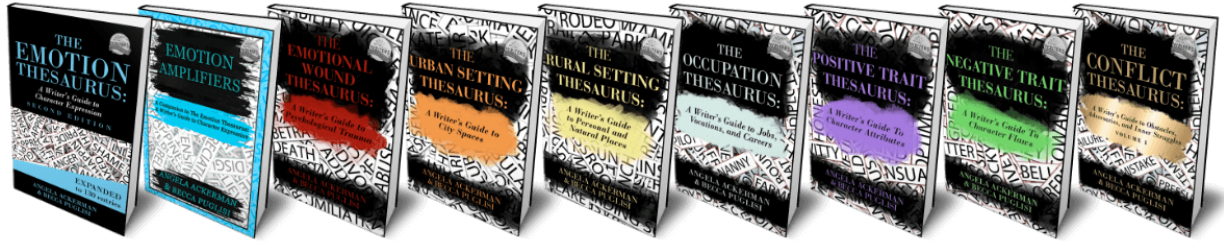
### Reach

Gain  
Grasp  
Strain  
Swipe  
Extend  
Stretch

### Kill

Murder  
Obliterate  
Destroy  
Annihilate  
Exterminate  
Suffocate  
Wipe out  
Slaughter  
Assassinate  
Eliminate  
Snuff

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