



Writing Skills

Linguistic Flexibility

Using Synonyms

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Linguistic Flexibility

Linguistic flexibility is an essential skill for effective writing. This vocabulary task improves students' lexicon while encouraging them to increase their precision when choosing words with which to express themselves. This is a straightforward worksheet requiring students to find multiple synonyms of underlined words within sentences. It provides teachers and therapists the chance to discuss slight variations of meanings across synonyms, and motivates students to use a thesaurus when writing. A sample answer key is included.

Name _____

Date _____

BE FLEXIBLE

Find three synonyms for each underlined word and read the sentences out loud with the replacements:

- 1) The elephant was big. _____
- 2) I loved the movie. _____
- 3) He was really upset. _____
- 4) The doctor gave us some bad news. _____

- 5) We talked for hours. _____
- 6) I can't believe how dirty your room is! _____

- 7) She displayed all the symptoms of the disease. _____

- 8) The mission was carried out with brutal efficiency. _____

- 9) He walked to the corner. _____

- 10) My rich uncle flaunted his lifestyle. (rich) _____
(flaunted) _____
- 11) That car is really beautiful. _____

- 12) You are so sweet! _____
- 13) That dessert is too sweet! _____

- 14) I don't want to argue. _____



BE FLEXIBLE—Answer Key

(note: there are more synonyms that could work)

Find three synonyms for each underlined word and read the sentences out loud with the replacements:

- 1) The elephant was big. tremendous huge gigantic
- 2) I loved the movie. adored enjoyed relished
- 3) He was really upset. disturbed angry agitated
- 4) The doctor gave us some bad news. disturbing horrific upsetting
- 5) We talked for hours. chatted conversed gossiped
- 6) I can't believe how dirty your room is! messy unkempt grungy
- 7) She displayed all the symptoms of the disease. demonstrated showed exhibited
- 8) The mission was carried out with brutal efficiency. harsh vicious severe
- 9) He walked to the corner. strolled marched sauntered
- 10) My rich uncle flaunted his lifestyle. (rich) wealthy loaded
 (flaunted) broadcasted flashed
- 11) That car is really beautiful. exquisite gorgeous sublime
- 12) You are so sweet! kind endearing precious
- 13) That dessert is too sweet! sugary cloying syrupy
- 14) I don't want to argue. fight disagree quarrel