Using Precise Language

Practice

Print this page and then write your answers.

A. Read each word in the first column of the table below. Write three synonyms for each word. Then write three adjectives or adverbs that could be used to describe the word. The first one has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Adjectives/Adverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>talk (verb)</td>
<td>speak, converse, discuss</td>
<td>intently, quietly, heatedly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>move (verb)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>drink (verb)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>noise (noun)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>house (noun)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>job (noun)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
B. Read the story below about a going-away gift from one friend to another. Replace each of the underlined words with a more precise word. Write the replacement words on the lines below. You may use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

Paul and Carla talked as her parents loaded some instruments into the truck. “You’re so lucky!” Paul said. “I hope I get to go on a seed hunt someday!”

Paul had been holding a brown paper bag, and he solemnly gave it to Carla. “Here,” he said. “It’s a little present from me and my mom. You and your parents can eat it tonight, while you’re traveling, and think of the rest of us back here working away on the farm while you’re off rescuing the planet.” He smiled.

Carla looked inside. “Oh, Paul, wherever did you get this?” She reached in and took out a plump red tomato. “This is so nice!”

“Mom and I have been growing two plants underneath a grow lamp since the winter, and this is the first tomato we’ve harvested. We’re planning to surprise everybody with some new tomatoes in a couple of weeks, but since you’re leaving, we wanted you to have this one. We want to surprise everyone here, so you won’t tell anybody else about it, will you?” Paul asked.

1. talked _______________
2. said _______________
3. holding _______________
4. gave _______________
5. working _______________
6. smiled _______________
7. nice _______________
8. growing _______________
9. new _______________
10. asked _______________