

San José

In this case, “praised” would most likely be the best choice. Going beyond “praised” could be too much information for your audience or even make your sentence incorrect: “awarded” is an entirely different concept from “praised,” but “awarded” appears in a thesaurus as a synonym for “praised.”

A thesaurus and dictionary are meant to work together. Although a thesaurus can offer many excellent options for better or more precise words, the thesaurus only names synonyms and related words; it does not provide lists of words with the exact same meaning. You have to choose precisely to maintain your original meaning, so you must check each synonym in the dictionary. It may be tempting to skip checking, but you can never be sure of your choice until you check.

For instance, thesaurus.com lists *trip* as a synonym for *flight*, which is defined as “the act, manner, or power of flying.” The word *trip*, though, means “a journey or voyage.” Clearly, these two words are not interchangeable in many situations. Fortunately, online thesauri and dictionaries make the process of checking definitions easy.

Rewrite the following sentences with more precise words by replacing vague words with specific words to create two different but specific and unambiguous scenes. Map your choices onto a “ladder of abstraction” Use a thesaurus and a dictionary to help you build a rich set of choices. Discuss the results with your tutor.

Sample:

The man touched me.

- a. The comedian made the blood rush to my cheeks and moved me to teary laughter.
- b. My dad pinched my cheek.

1. My boss had me to go to the store to get stuff for our work.

a.

b.

2. Yesterday, I got some interesting candies from a guy.

a.

b.

3. Something about that day was enough to make me scream.

a.

b.

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