Choose Your Words Carefully

Word Choice
Alicia Keys “Girl on Fire”

Be Specific and Memorable

- Oxford English Dictionary = AT LEAST 250,000 Words
- http://blog.writeathome.com/index.php/2012/12/100-words-every-middle-schooler-should-know/
Use Strong Verbs

- I was running VS I ran
- I was sprinting VS I sprinted
- Which would you choose?
I Got Ya!

- What are you trying to say?
  - I understand what you are saying!
  - I will pick your dog up after school!
- He got a cold. = He contracted a cold.
- She got a lot of money from her job. = She earned a lot of money from her job.
I can learn things when I am a zoologist.

I will be able to learn about animals and the ways they live in their natural habitats.

Which sentence would you choose?
Be Accurate and Effective

✧ A good word doesn’t have to mean fancy, big, or unusual.

✧ The car came to a **halt**. (Describes the kind of stop. It was probably caused by someone else)

✧ You don’t need a thesaurus for every word. If a simpler word will work use it.
Don’t Use a Phrase When You Could Use a Word

✦ People who work in the military vs. military personnel
✦ Get rid of vs. eliminate
Be Appropriate

- Remember your audience!
- Don’t use words or terms they wouldn’t understand.
- Don’t expect an adult to know slang.
  - Slang is improper tone.
Guided Practice

- The man walked down the street.

- Class Sentence:
Guided Practice

• She cooked a dessert.

• Class Sentence:
Know Your Thesaurus

With your Word Choice Worksheet look these words up in the thesaurus. Find 3 words that would be a better choice.

- Fun
- Cool
- Exciting
- Awesome
- Interesting
- Stuff

- Like
- Very
- Much
- Think
- Say
- Mean
On Your Own!

✧ Look back at your On Demand. Find 3 spots per paragraph to use a better word choice.