

Dead Words List

Some words in the English language are used so much that they become cliché and lose their power. As you edit your writing, make sure that you eliminate dead words and replace them with some of the suggestions below. You can use the word once if you absolutely must, but is better to get rid of it.



awesome, cool—fine, wonderful, marvelous, grand, fantastic, incredible

awful—dreadful, alarming, frightful, terrible, horrid, shocking, tragic

bad - awful, terrible, dreadful, horrific, shocking, unpleasant, cruel, troublesome, flawed, mischievous

but—however, in contrast, yet, still, nevertheless, though, although, on the other hand

funny—amusing, comical, laughable, jovial, hilarious, entertaining

fun—pleasant, pleasurable, amusing, entertaining, jolly, exuberant, interesting, colossal, astounding

good—excellent, exceptional, fine, marvelous, splendid, superb, wonderful

got, get—received, obtained, attained, succeed in

great—wonderful, marvelous, fantastic, stimulating, tremendous, thrilling

guy—man, person, fellow, boy, gentleman, adult, individual

have to—need to, must, essential

kid—child, boy, girl, youngster, youth, teen, teenager, adolescent, young person

like—such as, similar to, similarly, likewise, for instance, for example

lots—numerous, heaps, many, scores, innumerable, abundance

mad—angry, frustrated, furious, incensed, enraged, annoyed, irate

nice—pleasant, charming, kind, enjoyable, lovely, fascinating, captivating, delightful, pleasing

sad - depressing, heartbreaking, miserable, unhappy, wretched

say, tell - whisper, cry, scream, holler, shriek, bellow, believe, weep, howl, wail, blubber, shout, exclaim, call, yelp, screech, explain, express, articulate

scared—afraid, fearful, terrified, frightened

so—thus, accordingly, therefore

then—first, second, next, later, finally, afterward, meanwhile, soon

things/stuff—activities, work, concrete objects, ornaments, decorations, something specific.

very, really—extremely, exceedingly, fantastically, unusually, incredible, intensely, truly, fully, especially, shockingly, bitterly, immeasurably, infinitely, severely, surely, mightily, powerfully, chiefly