

Lesson 13

Precise Words and Phrases

L.4.3a: Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

Introduction What is the difference between a dog and a puppy? Maybe 10 years! If you just used the term *dog*, a reader would never know you meant *a brown bulldog puppy*. It is important to choose words and phrases that tell **precisely** the meaning you wish to convey.

- Using precise words helps to convey your ideas exactly as you intended.

Vague: Parts of Hawaii have been disappearing.

Precise: Wetlands of Hawaii have been disappearing.

- Using precise phrases will help readers picture and understand what you mean.

Vague: Many fruits grow in Hawaii.

Precise: Tropical pineapples, mangos, and bananas grow in Hawaii.

Guided Practice

Read each sentence. Circle the word or phrase that conveys a more precise meaning for the vague underlined words. Tell a partner what additional information each phrase adds to the original sentence.

HINT Ask yourself which word or phrase best helps you to picture or understand what is being described.

- 1 Hawaii has a lot of the coral reefs in the world.

a majority a large number

- 2 Oahu is filled with tourists who want to enjoy the island's beautiful beaches.

white-sand pretty

- 3 The North Shore is the ideal location to watch big-wave surfing, as waves go up more than 30 feet high.

move stretch

- 4 Hanauma Bay, with its nice waters, is popular for snorkeling.

clear blue pleasant

- 5 Tall mountains can be found on the "Big Island" in Hawaii.

High Towering

 **Independent Practice**

For numbers 1–3, read each sentence. Which word or phrase best replaces the underlined text in the sentence?

- 1** Maui has good rainforests.
- A** nice
 - B** special
 - C** wide and large
 - D** lush and fertile
- 2** The big cliffs on the island of Kauai were in the movie *Jurassic Park 3*.
- A** full
 - B** great
 - C** steep
 - D** large
- 3** One waterfall on the “Big Island” goes down into a large bowl-shaped gulch.
- A** falls
 - B** jumps
 - C** moves
 - D** plunges

For numbers 4 and 5, read the paragraph and choose the correct answer.

An inactive volcano, Diamond Head, is the most famous place on the island of Oahu. Most volcanoes, like Diamond Head, rarely erupt. But when they do, hot lava can blaze wildly.

- 4** Choose a word to replace place that better describes what Diamond Head is.
- A** area
 - B** spot
 - C** section
 - D** landmark
- 5** Choose a word to replace hot that better describes volcanic lava.
- A** fiery
 - B** grand
 - C** warm
 - D** heavy