

## ACTIVE VERBS

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### achieve

- do
- enact
- reach

### advertise

- announce
- bill
- call attention to
- make known
- make public
- promulgate
- publicize
- trumpet

### agree

- accept
- acknowledge
- comply
- concur
- consent
- nod

### allocate

- allot
- apportion
- assign

- dish out
- dole out
- give out

### analyze

- look over

### answer

- comeback
- defend
- deny

### appear

- arise
- arrive
- bloom
- develop
- emerge
- flash
- flower
- manifest
- materialize
- show
- spawn
- surface

### appraise

- gauge
- price

- quote
- rate
- size up
- value

### approve

- agree to
- assent to
- back
- bless
- consent to
- endorse
- recommend
- rubber-stamp
- subscribe to

### argue

- allege
- assert
- bicker
- contend
- disagree
- dispute
- insist
- reason
- squabble
- wrangle

**ask**

- cross-examine
- demand
- grill
- inquire
- interrogate
- needle
- plead
- pose
- proposition
- query
- question
- quiz
- request
- solicit

**attack**

- ambush
- assail
- assault
- barrage
- batter
- battle
- beat
- beset

- bombard
- charge
- clobber
- combat
- hammer
- molest
- overwhelm
- raid
- rush
- smite
- storm
- strike
- waylay

**attempt**

- chance
- embark
- endeavor
- gamble
- seek
- shot
- strive
- tackle
- try
- undertake
- venture

**balance**

- assess
- compare
- counteract
- equal
- evaluate
- level
- neutralize
- poise
- stabilize
- steady

**break**

- burst
- bust
- crack
- damage
- explode
- fracture
- fragment
- pulverize
- rend
- rupture
- shatter
- smash
- snap
- splinter
- tear

**bring**

- carry
- convey
- deliver
- fetch
- gather
- guide
- import
- lug
- pack
- pick up
- retrieve
- return
- tote

**build**

- construct
- create
- erect
- fashion
- firm
- form
- fortify
- frame
- layer
- raise

- reinforce
- shape
- stack

**bump**

- butt
- clatter
- jar
- jolt
- jostle
- knock
- nudge
- rap
- slam
- tap
- thump
- whack

**caclulate**

- anticipate
- figure
- intend
- mean

**call**

- bawl
- bellow
- 
- exclaim

- hail
- holler
- proclaim
- roar
- scream
- shout
- signal
- summon
- utter
- yell

**catalog**

- index
- inventory
- record
- tally

**categorize**

- assort
- pigeonhole
- typecast

**change**

- adapt
- adjust
- alter
- blur
- distort
- evolve

- fluctuate
- flux
- modify
- mutate
- reform
- shift
- switch
- transform
- twist
- vary
- warp

### **chart**

- delineate
- lay out
- map out
- outline
- sketch

### **chase**

- case
- follow
- hound
- hunt
- pursue
- shadow
- stalk
- track

- trail

### **choose**

- determine
- draw
- opt
- pluck
- prefer
- select
- vote
- winnow

### **climb**

- ascend
- crest
- heave
- mount
- rise
- scale
- scramble
- shimmy
- spring
- top

### **close**

- batten
- cage
- fasten
- fold

- lock down
- plug
- seal
- secure
- sheathe
- shut
- shutter

### **coach**

- school

### **code**

- encrypt

### **collect**

- accrue
- amass
- assemble
- cache
- compile
- corral
- garner
- group
- harvest
- hoard
- reap
- save
- scrape
- stockpile

- store

### **come**

- advance
- approach
- attend
- converge
- 
- meet
- show up

### **complete**

- actualize
- cap
- consummate
- crown
- supplement
- wrap up

### **compose**

- concoct
- devise
- make up
- think up

### **compress**

- abbreviate
- constrict
- restrict

- shorten

### **conduct**

- manage
- orchestrate
- oversee
- regulate
- supervise

### **contact**

- communicate with
- get in touch with
- notify

### **convert**

- bring to god
- evangelize
- metamorphose
- proselytize
- re-educate
- transfigure
- transmute

### **counsel**

- admonish
- caution

- confab
- kibitz
- tip
- tout
- urge

### **cover**

- blanket
- bury
- cloak
- clothe
- cloud
- conceal
- crust
- curtain
- disguise
- enclose
- envelop
- film
- mask
- obscure
- screen
- shade
- shelter
- shield
- shroud
- smother
- veil

- wrap

### **critique**

- appreciate
- comment
- criticize

### **cross cry**

- bray
- cheer
- hoot
- howl
- mewl
- screech
- shriek
- squall
- squeal
- trill
- wail
- whimper
- whoop
- yammer
- yelp

### **customize**

- contrive
- custom-make

- personalize
- tailor
- tailor-make

### **cut**

- axe
- carve
- chip
- chop
- cleave
- crop
- dissect
- divide
- hack
- hew
- nick
- pierce
- prune
- saw
- score
- sever
- shave
- shear
- slash
- slice
- snip
- thin
- trim

### **decide**

- adjudge
- adjudicate
- arbitrate

### **demonstrate**

- authenticate
- exhibit
- indicate
- manifest
- testify to

### **diagnose**

- distinguish
- pinpoint

### **dig**

- burrow
- core
- delve
- dredge up
- drill
- excavate
- exhume
- gouge
- hollow
- mine
- rout

- tunnel
- unearth

### **direct**

- accompany
- administer
- command
- control
- escort
- govern
- usher

### **drag**

- haul
- pull
- tow
- transport
- trawl
- tug
- yank
- yarn

### **educate**

- cultivate
- discipline
- enlighten
- inform
- rear
- tutor

### **eliminate**

- destroy
- do away with
- eradicate
- get rid of
- put an end to
- remove

### **enforce**

- bring to bear
- impose
- prosecute

### **enlist**

- engage
- enroll in
- get
- join up with
- sign up for
- volunteer for

### **enter**

- access
- barge in
- board
- burst into
- drop in

- encroach
- infiltrate
- intrude
- invade
- penetrate
- trespass
- wander

### **escape**

### **establish**

- authorize
- base
- domiciliate
- found
- inaugurate

### **execute**

- bring about
- carry out
- engineer
- put into effect
- render
- stage

### **experiment**

- conduct research

**explain**

- account for
- describe
- make clear
- put into words
- spell out

**fall**

- buckle
- collapse
- crash
- crumple
- dive
- drop
- pitch
- plummet
- plunge
- sink
- slant
- slip
- slump
- spill
- stumble
- topple
- trip

**fight**

- tumble
- brawl
- clash
- duel
- feud
- grapple
- joust
- quarrel
- scrap
- scuffle
- skirmish
- spar
- struggle
- tussle
- war
- wrestle

**file**

- alphabetize
- docket
- slot
- tabulate

**find**

- acquire
- catch
- detect

**fit**

- discover
- expose
- locate
- notice
- obtain
- reveal
- solve
- uncover
- apply
- arrange
- blend
- cram
- force
- implant
- jam
- lock
- mold
- nest
- place
- pound
- press
- rig
- set
- stuff
- wedge



**fix**

- cobble
- correct
- cure
- darn
- doctor
- improve
- maintain
- mend
- patch
- rebuild
- refit
- renovate
- repair
- restore
- service
- tinker

**forecast**

- foresee
- foretell
- predict
- prognosticate
- prophesy

**formulate**

- hatch
- thunk up

**generate**

- cause
- engender
- provoke

**get**

- accomplish
- attain
- earn
- elicit
- extract
- gain
- inherit
- procure
- receive
- take
- win

**give**

- award
- bequeath
- bestow
- confer
- dispense

- distribute
- donate
- gift
- grant
- hand
- offer
- parcel out
- present
- sacrifice
- toss

**grab**

- apprehend
- appropriate
- arrest
- claim
- clutch
- grip
- hook
- net
- seize
- snag
- snap up
- snatch
- steal
- wrench

**help**

- advise
- advocate
- aid
- assist
- befriend
- boost
- comfort
- encourage
- further
- heal
- intercede
- nurture
- relieve
- serve
- support

### **hide**

- camouflage
- hole up
- protect
- smuggle
- squirrel  
away
- stash
- stow

### **hit**

- bash

- clap
- deck
- flog
- poke
- punch
- ram
- slap
- slug
- smack
- smoke
- swat
- swing
- wallop

### **hold**

- bolster
- clasp
- clench
- cradle
- grasp
- handle
- prop
- shoulder
- squeeze

### **host**

- have
- put on

### **hurry**

- bustle
- cruise
- dash
- expedite
- hasten
- hustle
- pelt
- quicken
- scamper
- scurry
- scuttle
- slide
- speed
- sweep
- zip

### **illustrate**

- clarify
- depict
- embody
- emphasize
- epitomize
- highlight
- illuminate
- mirror
- personify

- point up
- portray
- spotlight
- typify

### **implement**

- fulfill

### **inspect**

- check
- peruse
- vet

### **install**

- ensconce
- induct
- insert
- instate
- site
- situate
- station

### **instruct**

- enjoin
- mandate
- prime
- upskill

### **integrate**

- accommodate
- assimilate
- conform
- consolidate
- coordinate
- desegregate
- harmonize
- incorporate
- mesh
- unify

### **interview**

- have a dialogue with
- have a discussion with
- talk to

### **join**

- add
- adhere
- affix
- attach
- cement
- combine

- couple
- fuse
- glue
- graft
- hinge
- knit
- link
- marry
- meld
- merge
- pair
- pin
- seam
- splice
- staple
- stitch
- tether
- unite
- weave
- weld

### **judge**

- decree
- moderate
- pronounce
- rule

### **jump**

- bounce
- bound
- hop
- hurdle
- leap
- leapfrog
- lurch
- pounce
- skip
- surge
- trounce
- vault

### **kick**

- boot
- dropkick
- punt

### **know**

- discern
- feel
- identify
- intuit
- perceive
- realize
- sense
- understand

### **lay**

- deposit
- lodge
- plant
- position
- put
- rest
- seat
- settle
- spread

### **lead**

- escort
- lead the way
- pilot
- shepherd
- steer

### **leave**

- abandon
- defect
- depart
- disappear
- ditch
- evacuate
- exit
- forsake
- maroon
- quit

- retire
- scam
- set forth
- take off
- vacate
- withdraw

### **lecture**

- berate
- chide
- declaim
- discourse
- expatiate
- hold forth
- make a speech
- rebuke
- reprimand
- reproach
- reprove
- scold
- talk
- upbraid

### **lessen**

- abate
- bleed
- blunt

- cull
- curb
- curtail
- cut back
- dampen
- decrease
- deplete
- diminish
- dwindle
- evaporate
- fade
- lighten
- limit
- minimize
- mitigate
- reduce
- shrink
- shrivel
- slacken
- taper
- thin out
- wane
- weaken

**lift**

- crane
- elevate
- heft

- hike
- hoist
- jack up
- raise/rise
- uphold
- winch

**listen**

- eavesdrop
- hear
- heed
- mind
- monitor
- overhear
- tune in

**look**

- behold
- browse
- eye
- focus
- gawk
- glance
- glimpse
- leer
- ogle
- peek
- peep

- scan
- see
- squint
- stare

**make**

- beget
- brew
- conceive
- design
- forge
- invent
- produce
- sculpt

**market**

- hawk
- merchandise
- peddle
- retail
- sell
- trade
- vend

**measure**

- compute
- count
- meter
- plumb

- quantify
- size

### **mediate**

- conciliate
- effect
- effectuate
- make peace
- negotiate
- reconcile
- referee
- umpire

### **motivate**

- influence
- inspire
- prompt
- spur
- stimulate

### **move**

- budge
- displace
- fiddle
- jiggle
- maneuver
- pop out
- relocate

- work at

### **need**

- exact
- require

### **open**

- bare
- display
- expand
- free
- gape
- peel
- release
- unbolt
- uncork
- undo
- unfasten
- unfold
- unfurl
- unhinge
- unlock
- unroll
- unzip
- widen

### **order**

- adjure
- buy

- call for
- 
- tell
- warn

### **organize**

- classify
- codify
- marshal
- put in order
- put straight
- sort
- systematize

### **overhaul**

- fix up
- recondition
- refurbish

### **perform**

- function

### **persuade**

- bring around
- cajole
- coax
- coerce
- convince
- entice

- induce
- inveigle
- lure
- prevail on
- tempt
- wheedle
- win over

### **photograph**

- reproduce
- shoot
- take a picture

### **pick**

- bag

### **plan**

- work out

### **play**

- act
- caper
- cavort
- clown
- dabble
- dally
- entertain
- flirt

- frisk
- frolic
- gambol
- joke
- kid
- rejoice
- romp
- tease
- toy

### **prepare**

- draw up
- gird
- strengthen

### **print**

- circulate
- engrave
- etch
- impress
- imprint
- issue
- mark
- reprint
- run off
- send to press

### **process**

- deal with

- dispose of
- refine
- treat

### **program**

- line up
- timetable

### **project**

- calculate
- cantilever
- estimate
- expect
- extend
- protrude
- reckon
- shed
- shine

### **promote**

- contribute to
- forward
- foster

### **propose**

- come up with
- nominate
- suggest

- table

### **provide**

- furnish
- lend
- yield

### **purchase**

- invest
- redeem
- shop

### **push**

- bulldoze
- crowd
- crush
- drive
- elbow
- impel
- muscle
- prod
- propel
- shove
- squish
- strain
- thrust

### **recruit**

- call up
- conscript
- draft
- hire
- levy
- mobilize
- muster
- muster in

### **register**

- enroll
- list
- sign up

### **remember**

- call to mind
- flash back to
- memorialize
- recall
- recognize
- recollect
- reminisce  
about
- revive
- think back to

### **research**

- look into

### **reserve**

- defer
- preserve
- retain
- set aside
- withhold

### **resolve**

- clear up
- iron out

### **respond**

- 
- behave
- come back
- counter
- react
- reciprocate
- rejoin
- reply
- retort

### **review**

- debrief
- reassess
- recapitulate
- reconsider
- reevaluate



- reexamine
- revise

### **ride**

- coast
- gallop
- jockey
- surf

### **rub**

- brush
- buff
- caress
- chafe
- graze
- grind
- knead
- lather
- massage
- nuzzle
- polish
- scour
- scrub
- smear
- smooth
- smudge
- stroke

- wipe

### **run**

- amble
- barrel
- canter
- dart
- fly
- jet
- jog
- lope
- race
- scoot
- sprint
- stampede
- streak
- trot

### **say**

- address
- articulate
- banter
- blab
- blubber
- chant
- chat
- converse
- curse

- dictate
- discuss
- drawl
- drone
- jabber
- jibber
- mouth
- murmur
- mutter
- rant
- rave
- snarl
- speak
- spout
- sputter
- stammer
- stutter
- swear

### **schedule**

- appoint

### **schedule**

- book
- card
- set up
- slate

### **search**

- examine
- explore
- ferret
- forage
- investigate
- probe
- quest
- ransack
- rummage
- scout
- sift

### **send**

- broadcast
- cast
- channel
- publish
- radiate
- relay
- route
- ship
- transfer
- transmit
- volley
- wire

### **shake**

- agitate

- churn
- convulse
- flutter
- jerk
- judder
- palpitate
- quake
- quaver
- quiver
- rattle
- ripple
- shiver
- shudder
- slosh
- spasm
- squirm
- thrash
- throb
- totter
- tremble
- tremor
- twinge
- twitch
- vibrate

### **sit**

- crouch
- flop

- huddle
- hunker
- laze
- lounge
- park
- perch
- plop
- recline
- relax
- roost
- slouch
- sprawl
- squat
- straddle

### **spearhead**

- originate
- quarterback

### **split**

- halve
- part
- rip
- separate
- slit
- sunder

### **start**

- activate

- begin
- birth
- commence
- dawn
- erupt
- initiate
- launch
- pioneer
- sally
- set out

### **stop**

- belay
- cease
- conclude
- desist
- discontinue
- end
- finish
- freeze
- halt
- hitch
- pause
- refrain
- rein
- stall
- suspend
- terminate

### **submit**

- abide
- accede
- acquiesce
- appease
- cede
- concede
- humor
- relinquish
- surrender
- tolerate
- truckle

### **succeed**

- benefit
- overcome
- prevail
- prosper
- thrive
- triumph

### **supply**

- afford
- cater
- endow
- equip
- fill
- hand over

- turn over

### **test**

- tax

### **throw**

- catapult
- chuck
- discharge
- fire
- fling
- flip
- hurl
- lob
- peg
- sling

### **touch**

- dab
- finger
- fondle
- glove
- palm
- pat
- pet
- tickle

### **train**

- aim

- exercise
- ground
- learn
- point

### **translate**

- decipher
- decode
- express
- gloss
- paraphrase
- rephrase
- reword

### **trap**

- bind
- capture
- chain
- corner
- entangle
- handcuff
- imprison
- pinch
- restrain
- shackle
- snare
- surround

### **turn**

- bend
- circle
- crank
- curl
- fork
- lean
- loop
- pivot
- revolve
- rotate
- round
- spin
- sway
- swerve
- swirl
- swivel
- tilt
- twirl
- whirl

### **update**

- amend
- modernize
- refresh
- rejuvenate
- renew

### **upgrade**

- ameliorate
- make better

### **use**

- adopt
- employ
- manipulate
- operate
- practice
- utilize
- wield
- work

### **validate**

- certify
- confirm
- corroborate
- legalize
- legitimize
- ratify
- substantiate

### **verify**

- double-check
- find out
- justify
- prove

**visit**

- call on
- court
- frequent
- haunt
- tour

**volunteer**

- come forward
- step forward
- tender

**wait**

- bide
- delay
- dwell
- hang out
- hesitate
- hover
- idle
- lag
- linger
- loiter
- procrastinate
- remain
- stand

- stay
- tarry

**walk**

- clomp
- clump
- creep
- limp
- lumber
- march
- mosey
- pace
- pad
- parade
- plod
- prowl
- roam
- saunter
- shuffle
- slink
- slog
- sneak
- stamp
- stride
- stroll
- strut
- swagger
- tiptoe

- toddle
- tramp
- trample
- trudge
- waddle

**want**

- ache
- covet
- crave
- desire
- dream
- hunger
- long for
- lust
- pine
- thirst
- wish
- yearn

**wash**

- bathe
- clean
- cleanse
- freshen up
- launder
- rinse
- shampoo

- shower
- sluice
- soak
- soap
- swab

### **watch**

- contemplate
- keep tabs
- note
- observe
- regard
- scope
- scrutinize
- spot
- spy
- survey
- view
- witness

### **whisper**

- confide
- mumble
- wheeze

### **wonder**

- consider
- debate

- doubt
- meditate
- mull
- muse
- ponder
- puzzle
- ruminate
- speculate
- study
- think
- weigh

### **write**

- communicate
- correspond
- dash off
- email
- jot down
- log
- pen
- put down
- take down

For more writing tips and resources, visit [TheMoonlightingWriter.com](http://TheMoonlightingWriter.com).

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