

# 249 POWERFUL VERBS

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Absorb	Chip	Drain
Advance	Clasp	Drip
Advise	Climb	Drop
Alter	Clutch	Eavesdrop
Amend	Collide	Engage
Amplify	Command	Engulf
Attack	Commune	Enlarge
Balloon	Cower	Ensnare
Bash	Crackle	Envelop
Batter	Crash	Erase
Beam	Crave	Escort
Beef	Crush	Expand
Blab	Dangle	Explode
Blast	Dash	Explore
Bolt	Demolish	Expose
Boost	Depart	Extend
Brief	Deposit	Extract
Broadcast	Detect	Eyeball
Brood	Deviate	Fight
Burst	Devour	Fish
Bus	Direct	Fling
Bust	Discern	Fly
Capture	Discover	Frown
Catch	Dismantle	Fuse
Charge	Download	Garble
Chap	Drag	Gaze

Glare	Lead	Pluck
Gleam	Leap	Plunge
Glisten	Locate	Poison
Glitter	Lurch	Pop
Gobble	Lurk	Position
Govern	Magnify	Power
Grasp	Mimic	Prickle
Gravitate	Mint	Probe
Grip	Moan	Prune
Groan	Modify	Realize
Grope	Multiply	Recite
Growl	Muse	Recoil
Guide	Mushroom	Refashion
Gush	Mystify	Refine
Hack	Notice	Remove
Hail	Notify	Report
Heighten	Obtain	Retreat
Hobble	Oppress	Reveal
Hover	Order	Reverberate
Hurry	Paint	Revitalize
Ignite	Park	Revolutionize
Illuminate	Peck	Revolve
Inspect	Peek	Rip
Instruct	Peer	Rise
Intensify	Perceive	Ruin
Intertwine	Picture	Rush
Impart	Pilot	Rust
Jostle	Pinpoint	Saunter
Journey	Place	Scamper
Lash	Plant	Scan
Launch	Plop	Scorch

Scrape	Soar	Transfigure
Scratch	Spam	Transform
Scrawl	Sparkle	Travel
Seize	Sport	Treat
Serve	Sprinkle	Trim
Shatter	Stare	Trip
Shepherd	Starve	Trudge
Shimmer	Steal	Tussle
Shine	Steer	Uncover
Shock	Storm	Unearth
Shrivel	Strain	Untangle
Sizzle	Stretch	Unveil
Skip	Strip	Usher
Skulk	Stroll	Veil
Slash	Struggle	Wail
Slide	Stumble	Weave
Slink	Supercharge	Wind
Slip	Supersize	Withdraw
Slump	Surge	Wreck
Slurp	Survey	Wrench
Smash	Swell	Wrest
Smite	Swipe	Wrestle
Snag	Swoon	Wring
Snarl	Tail	Yank
Sneak	Tattle	Zing
Snowball	Toddle	Zap

# 3 Types of Weak Verbs to Beware in Your Writing

## 1. State-of-being verbs

These are passive as opposed to powerful:

Is	Have	Did
Am	Would	Can
Are	Had	Being
Was	May	Shall
Were	Do	Been
Be	Might	Will
Has	Does	Could
Should	Must	

Determining when a state-of-being verb creates a problem—and finding a better, more powerful verb to replace it—makes us writers.

### Examples

Impotent: The man was walking on the platform.

Powerful: The man strode along the platform.

Impotent: Jim is a lover of country living.

Powerful: Jim treasures country living.

Impotent: There are three things that make me feel the way I do...

Powerful: Three things convince me...

## 2. Verbs that rely on adverbs

Powerful verbs are strong enough to stand alone.

### Examples

The fox ran quickly dashed through the forest.  
She menacingly looked glared at her rival.

He secretly listened eavesdropped while they discussed their plans.

## 3. Verbs with -ing suffixes

### Examples

Before: He was walking...  
After: He walked...

Before: She was loving the idea of...  
After: She loved the idea of...

Before: The family was starting to gather...  
After: The family started to gather...

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