

Exercise 7

See if you can add some pizzazz to the following story. These simple steps will help you:

1. Avoid wimpy linking verbs (like *was* and *were*) and use strong action verbs instead.
2. Replace vague, boring adjectives (like *big* and *messy*) with vivid description
3. Replace fuzzy adverbs (like *gladly*, *wildly*, *gleefully*) with strong action verbs and/or description.
4. Add some interesting comparisons, ones that tickle your reader's imagination.

In other words, be an artist and paint word pictures for your reader. Remember, details are your friends. Let me clarify. *Interesting* details are your friends.

Paint away!

Eudora gladly accepted the job to babysit for the neighbors. She knocked confidently on the door of the Morgans' big house, where she was met by three messy brats. After the parents quickly and happily said good-bye, Eudora tried to amuse the tots with all sorts of goofy games, but the children weren't interested. For the next three hours, they acted horribly. When the Morgans finally arrived home, the house was a disaster, and the tots played gleefully as Eudora tried frantically to free herself from the trap that the brats had constructed.