

12 Powerful Words

Increase Test Scores and Help Close
the Achievement Gap



What do we mean by powerful words?

- These are the words that stump students when they take standardized tests. Students may feel intimidated or confused by these words causing them to answer a question incorrectly when they know the answer.

12 POWERFUL WORDS

Help all students:

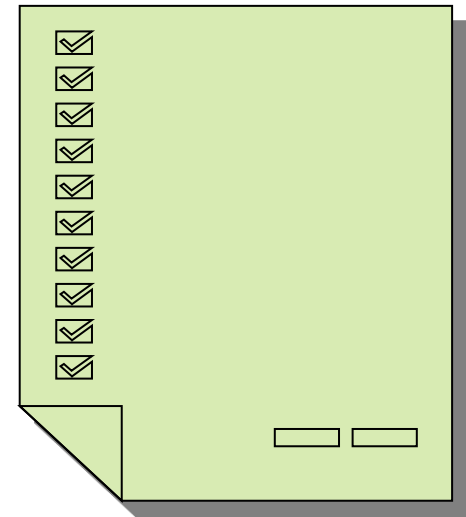
- **To better understand what each question means**
- **To become familiar with words that require higher order thinking skills**
- **To relieve test anxiety**
- **To achieve better on tests**

Trace



Example: Using the paragraph, trace the steps of cell mitosis.

- List in 1, 2, 3 order
- List in steps
- Sequence





- Example: Which of the following analyzes how the author used personification?
- Break apart
- Think through
- Break into pieces

Infer

- Example: In the story, infer how Red Riding Hood felt when she realize the wolf was Grandma?

- Read between the lines



- What do you think?



Evaluate

- Example: Evaluate the value of x in this equation.
- Judge its worth



Formulate

- Example: Formulate an opinion about this issue and express it in a short paragraph.
- Come up with
- Plan

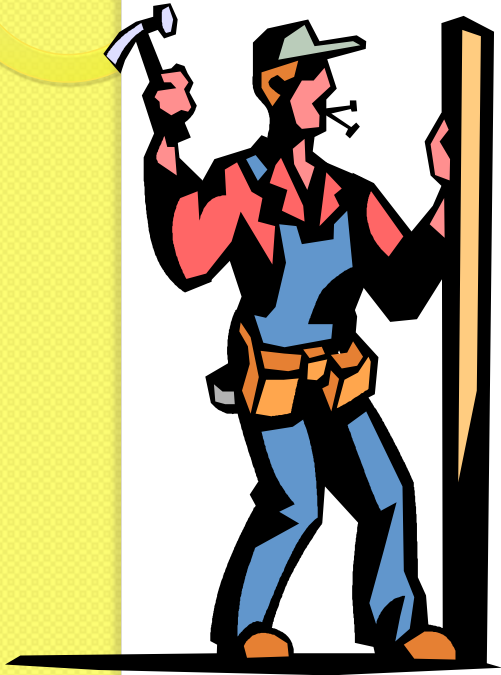




Describe

- Example: Which of the following best describes the author's mood?
- Tell in your own words
- Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

Support



- Example: Which of the following sentences best supports the main idea.
- Back up with details
- Tell why
- How do you know?





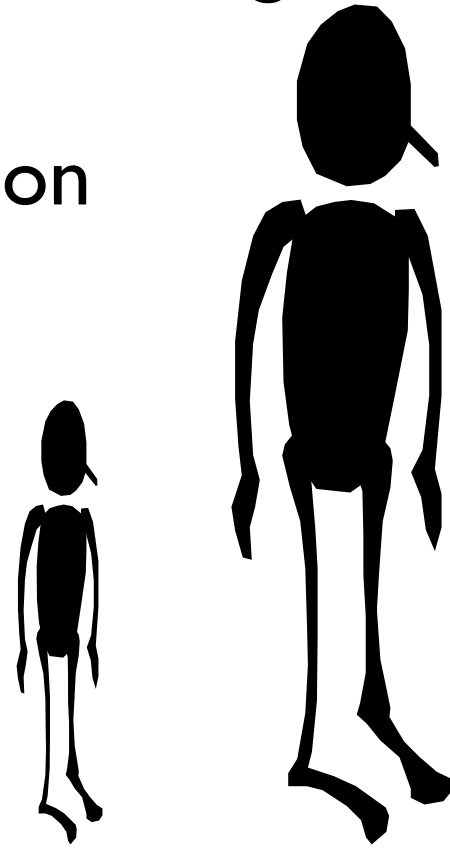
Explain

- Example: Based on this paragraph, explain how viruses spread from one person to another.
- Tell how
- Who, What, When, Where, Why, How



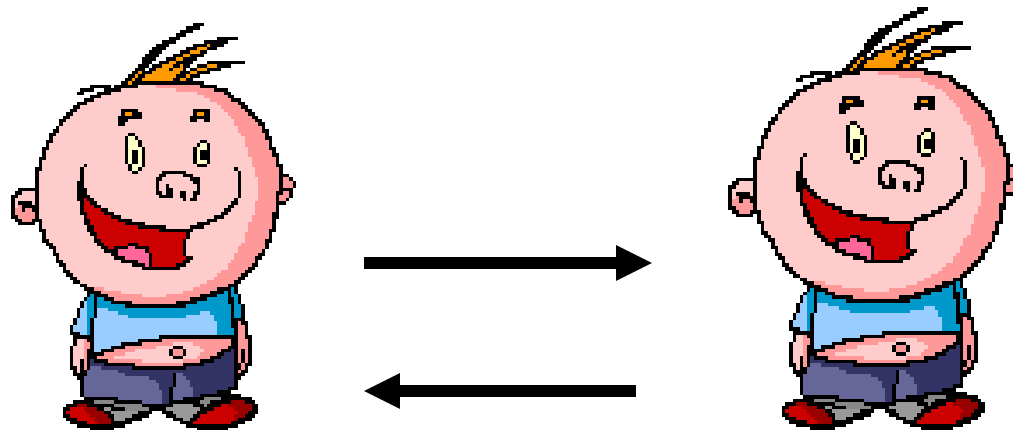
Summarize

- Example: Which of the following best summarizes the story?
- Give me the short version



Compare

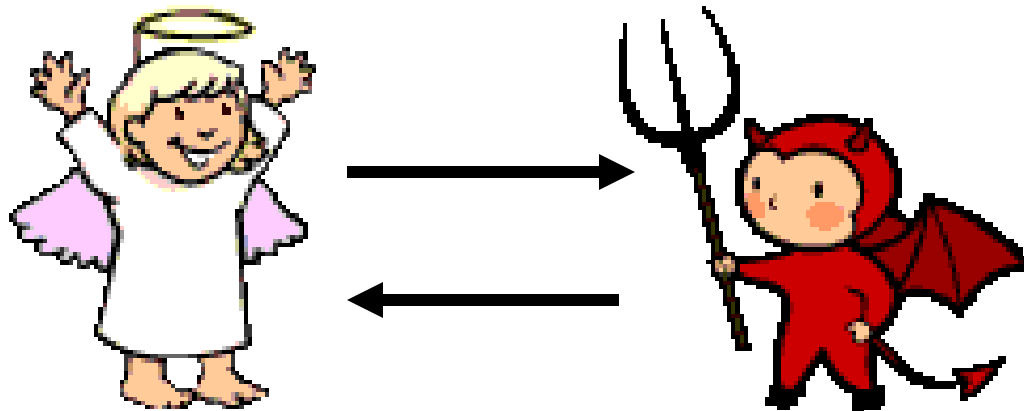
- Example: Compare the government of Great Britain to the governments of the United States.
- How are they the same
- Alike



Contrast



- Example: Contrast the government of the United States and Cuba.
- How are they different?





Predict

- Example: In a short paragraph, predict how the story will end.
- What will happen next
- What will happen in the future?

