

Grammar and Style

EMPHASIZE ACTION

Strong verbs in a series emphasize the actions taking place. Notice the difference in the following examples. Readers can more easily imagine the specific actions taking place in the revised sentences.

SENTENCE: I did a bunch of chores, and after that I was exhausted.

REVISION: I **washed** the windows, **baked** a cake, **emptied** the trash, and **scrubbed** the kitchen floor, and after that I was exhausted.

SENTENCE: We were thirsty after spending the afternoon at the park.

REVISION: We **played** a game of soccer, **ran** around the track, **raced** back to the car, and **gulped** two bottles of water each.

Directions: In the following paragraphs, the writer summarizes the action in the story.

Revise the paragraph, replacing vague verbs with strong verbs in a series. Combine sentences if necessary. Use proofreading symbols from the chart to show your changes.

Proofreading Symbols

 Add letters, words, or punctuation.

 Delete letters or words.

Richard was terrified and told his mother he did not want to face the boys. He said he wanted to come inside. Richard's mother told him he had to fight the boys again. She made him return outside with a stick, she hit him, and she went inside. He was very nervous as he waited for the boys to return.

When the boys arrived, Richard was shaking. He beat them all off. His money and the grocery list landed on the ground