

Example
Independent Writing
Items

ELA Indicator 2.2.d

Compiled from the Grade Level NeSA ELA Samplers

(Grades 3-8, 11)

2.2.d

Grade Level Indicators	
3.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
4.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
5.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
6.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes
7.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
8.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
12.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.

19. Read the sentence.

The runner ran down the track at the start of the 100-meter race.

Which word BEST replaces ran to make the sentence more precise?

- A. stepped
- B. dashed
- C. walked
- D. hurried

Item Information		
Alignment	4.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
Answer Key	B	Option Annotations The student is asked to select a word that is more precise than “ran.” Option B is correct because the word “dashed” is most precise for the context of a race. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not fit the context of the sentence.
Depth of Knowledge	2	
Focus	Precise Word Choice	

19. A student is writing a paragraph describing an event. She is looking for more precise words to use.

Read the paragraph.

Raindrops drummed on the roof as Mia finished getting ready for school. Just as the news meteorologist had predicted, Mia's morning commute would be interrupted by a downpour. She peaked out the window and surveyed her neighborhood. She watched as water splashed off the hoods of cars and puddles transformed into small rivers in the street. Mia was dreading the walk to the bus stop, but she needed to arrive to school on time. So Mia zipped up her jacket and grabbed her umbrella. Then, she went out the door and sprinted the three blocks to the bus stop.

Select **two** words that could replace went to make the paragraph more precise. Select **two**.

- A. coasted
- B. darted
- C. moved
- D. rushed
- E. sauntered
- F. wandered

Item Information		
Alignment	7.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
Answer Key	B, D	Option Annotations
Depth of Knowledge	2	
Focus	Precise Word Choice	
		<p>The student is asked to select two words that are more precise than “went.” Options B and D are the correct answers because “dashed” and “rushed” best fit the context of the paragraph. Since “sprinted” is also in the sentence, the words that are most precise need to imply “to move quickly.” Options A, E, and F are incorrect because they imply slow movement, which does not fit the context of the paragraph. Option C is incorrect because “moved” is as general as “went.”</p> <p>This item is worth 2 points. To receive full credit, the student must correctly identify both words that could replace “went” to make the paragraph more precise. To receive 1 point, the student must correctly identify one of the words that is more precise.</p>

19. Read the paragraph from a narrative about a hike.

Kim had hiked this mountain so many times. She loved the challenges of the trail, the gnarly roots that threatened to trip her and the embedded stones worn smooth by years of foot traffic. Her brother Ned had leapt ahead of her on the trail like a mountain goat. He had probably already arrived at Alpine Lake, the glistening, unspoiled expanse of brilliant blue that was their destination. As she emerged from the shaded trail for her first glimpse of the lake, she paused to take in its splendor.

Choose the sentence which, if added to the paragraph, would BEST create suspense.

- A. The lake settled into the landscape like a brilliant blue bowl, encircled by the emerald forest, presenting a striking contrast of intense color.
- B. Then, behind her, she heard the light thud of footsteps and the whisper of branches brushing against something, something mobile, and she shivered in the warm sunlight.
- C. Once, a real estate developer had threatened to create a small resort community on the shores of the lake, but he had met with so much resistance that he gave up the plan.
- D. She heard Ned calling for her somewhere along the shore, and she realized that he was waiting impatiently for her to join him.

Item Information		
Alignment	12.2.2.d	Use precise word choice and domain-specific vocabulary to write in a variety of modes.
Answer Key	B	Option Annotations The student is asked to determine which sentence could be added to the paragraph to best create suspense. The correct option is B because “heard the light thud of footsteps,” “whisper of branches,” and “she shivered” all create a suspenseful tone. The other options are incorrect because, while descriptive word choice is used, the words do not create suspense.
Depth of Knowledge	2	
Focus	Word Choice	