

Let Dead Verbs Rest in Peace

A number of verbs in our language let us know (or think we know) what is being expressed or described. Some of those verbs are *said, walked, got, took, saw, had, went, let...*

You *get* the idea!

On closer examination, however, these verbs show themselves to be dead. The reader can't form an exact image of what is going on. It's a lazy way of writing, and we need to keep the dead verbs in their place...buried! I've prepared several exercises for you to practice strengthening your strong verbs. The point is not only to have fun practicing, but also to use the strong verbs when you actually write your essays and poems. Here is the first practice, **Using Strong Verbs: A Walking Contest**. For each phrase, replace the word *walking* with a more specific verb that fits the image. Do not use any new verb more than once. We don't want to wear out our strong verbs before we use them! ☺

- _____ 1. A nature lover walking through the woods
- _____ 2. A lame man walking across the floor
- _____ 3. A noisy boy walking up the stairs
- _____ 4. A long-legged CEO walking into his plush office
- _____ 5. Passengers walking on the deck of a cruise ship
- _____ 6. A tourist walking through an art gallery
- _____ 7. A ship captain walking the deck
- _____ 8. A captive walking the plank
- _____ 9. A haughty actor walking out on stage
- _____ 10. Flat-footed Ms. Roly-poly walking into the kitchen
- _____ 11. An inspired poet walking in a field
- _____ 12. A dreamy student walking in a field
- _____ 13. A thief walking around a house
- _____ 14. A vivacious, lively hostess walking among her guests
- _____ 15. A tired, listless homeless person walking across the street
- _____ 16. A light-hearted girl walking across the lawn
- _____ 17. A heedless boy walking on a flower bed
- _____ 18. A man with a wooden leg walking across a bridge
- _____ 19. An angry person walking out of a room
- _____ 20. A toddler walking to her mother
- _____ 21. A cat walking on the furniture
- _____ 22. A clumsy man walking up the steps
- _____ 23. A weary farmer walking home from the fields
- _____ 24. A stiff, rheumatic old woman walking down steps
- _____ 25. Mrs. Harrell walking around the room