

Using a Thesaurus

When we write, we sometimes use the same words repeatedly. At other times, we use boring words when more exciting words would make the writing more interesting. At times like these, using a *thesaurus* can help us make our writing more exciting. A thesaurus is a book of synonyms.

A *synonym* is a word that has the same, or nearly the same, meaning as another word.

Directions: Read the story below. Create a more interesting story by using a thesaurus to find a synonym for each of the words in parentheses. Be sure the words you choose are grammatically correct and make sense in the story.

The Story:

Aunt Skeeter and the (bad) _____ Itch

It was a (very) _____ hot day at Bluebell Farm. Aunt Skeeter had been (working) _____ in the garden since daybreak. She looked up at the (hot) _____ sun and wished she could go swimming in the (cool) _____ creek. All at once, Aunt Skeeter had a (good) _____ idea. She decided that a swim was just what she needed. So she (ran) _____ down to the creek and (jumped) _____ in! A smile spread across her face as she floated on the water. The (nice) _____ swim didn't last very long, however. All of a sudden, Aunt Skeeter let out a (cry) _____ that could be heard in the next county. She jumped out of the water as though she'd been shot from a cannon. She wiggled and squirmed, trying to (find) _____ the source of her discomfort. Finally, after one (big) _____ shake, a (fat) _____ catfish came flopping out of Aunt Skeeter's overalls. Seeing the catfish made Aunt Skeeter (laugh) _____ so hard that she had the hiccups for two days!