# **Synonyms for Said**

Have you found that you are overusing the word "said"? Do you want to give more meaning, action, and emotion to the dialogue in your writing? Do you want to use more descriptive words in your essays? Simply replacing the word "said" with one of the following synonyms could give your writing the "extra kick" you're looking for.

Acknowledged **Boasted** Demurred Acquiesced Bragged Denied Added Brought forth Denounced Addressed Called Described Admitted Cautioned Dictated Admonished Charged Directed Advised Chided Disclosed Advocated Cited Disrupted Affirmed Claimed Divulged Agreed Commanded Drawled Commented Droned Alleged Complained Allowed Elaborated Conceded Announced **Emphasized** Answered Concluded Enjoined Approved Condescended Entreated Argued Confessed Enunciated Confided Estimated Asked Assented Consented Exclaimed Asserted Contended **Explained** Assumed Contested Exposed Assured Continued Expressed Faltered Attested Contradicted Avowed Counseled Feared Babbled Countered Foretold Bantered Cracked Fumed Bargained Cried Gasped Barked Debated Giggled Began Decided Granted Begged Declared Grinned Bellowed Decreed Groaned Beseeched Demanded Growled

Grumbled Narrated Reiterated Grunted Noted Rejoiced Notified Haggled Rejoined Hedged Related Objected Held Observed Relented Hesitated Opined Remarked Hinted Orated Reminded Howled Ordered Remonstrated Petitioned **Imparted** Repeated **Implied** Pleaded Replied Pled **Implored** Reported Indicated Pointed out Reprimanded Inferred Prayed Requested Informed Predicted Responded Proclaimed Restated Inquired Insinuated **Professed** Resumed Insisted **Prompted** Retorted Instructed Pronounced Returned Revealed Interjected **Proposed** Roared Interrogated Propounded Intimidated Protested Ruled Itemized Proved Sanctioned Jested **Publicized** Scoffed Judged Queried Scolded Lamented Questioned Screamed Shouted Laughed Quibbled Lectured Quipped Shrieked Lied Quoted Snapped Lisped Rambled Sneered Listed Ranted Sobbed Made known Reaffirmed Solicited Maintained Reasoned Specified Mentioned Reassured Spoke Mimicked Reciprocated Sputtered Moaned Recited Stammered Mumbled Recommended Stated Murmured Recounted Stipulated Mused Referred Stormed Muttered Refuted Stressed Nagged Regretted Stuttered

Suggested Upbraided Wept

Taunted Urged Whimpered Testified Uttered Whistled Thought Vowed Whooped Threatened Wailed Wrangled Told Warned Yelled

Twitted Went on

#### **Substituting for "Said"**

Each of the above words, when used in the place of "said," will make your writing much more concrete and vivid. Take the following sentence, for example:

"I will love you until the end of time," John said.

versus

"I will love you until the end of time," John vowed.

Simply by replacing "said" with "vowed," I have made the second sentence much more meaningful than the first.

Here is another example:

"I think you had better go now," Cindy said.

versus

"I think you had better go now," Cindy snapped.

In the first sentence, readers have no hint at what Cindy is feeling when she speaks. In the second sentence, readers can sense a hint of anger and intensity in Cindy's voice.

Choosing more concrete synonyms for "said" can also strengthen your academic writing, as shown in the following example:

"An anonymous source <u>admitted</u> that the company had actually been losing profit for years and remarked that the reason for the loss was the poor judgment of the CEO."

The words "admitted" and "remarked" both carry more weight than the word "said." *To say* simply means to say, but *to admit* and *to remark* both mean to say in a distinct and specific way.

## **Activity 1**

Using the context clues in each sentence, fill in each blank with the appropriate synonym for "said" from the list below.

				professed decided		
	"Well, you see," Julie, "It all started like this."  Joseph that the Industrial Revolution was a time of growth and change in					
	-	America.				
3.	Carolwhether or not she was making the right decision.					
	"You haven't taken the trash out yet," Lizzie					
	The employeethat he had been taking naps under the bar on his breaks.					
6.	"I will not stand for this!" Jason					
7.	In the story of Oedipus, the oraclethat Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother.					
8.	. "I supposed I will go to the movie after all," Andrea					
	"You, take the cake out of the oven. You, frost it," the baker					
10. The authorthat there would be a sequel to the novel.						
Activi	ty 2					
	•	synonym for	said will work	in a sentence I	In the next exercise, select up to	
Often, more than one synonym for said will work in a sentence. In the next exercise, select up to three synonyms for said that you think are appropriate to fill in the blank. Following the exercise						
you will find some suggested answers. Keep in mind that these answers are only some of the						
many possibilities.						
<i>J</i> 1						
1.	Roger that it would be a bad idea to leave the stove on all day.					
	"Please, don't make me go," Carla					
	"I don't want to eat here! This has to be the worst restaurant in all of San Jose," Matthew					
	•					
4.	"Even though I don't like it, I guess you might be correct," Sharon					
5.	"I'm n-n-not so sure that w-w-we should go in there," Shaggy					
					amount of evidence exists to	
	prove the exis	stence of Bigfo	oot.			
					ne again!" Albert	
8.	Many prospect punishment.	ctive jurors hav	ve	_ that the death	penalty is a cruel and unusual	
	բայրչյունու					

## Answer Key for Activity 1

- 1. began
- 2. described
- 3. questioned
- 4. nagged
- 5. confessed

- 6. objected
- 7. professed
- 8. decided
- 9. directed
- 10. hinted

#### Answer Key for Activity 2

- 1. insisted, pointed out, warned
- 2. groaned, pleaded, begged
- 3. complained, protested, ranted, objected
- 4. agreed, assented, conceded
- 5. murmured, stammered, hesitated
- 6. debated, argued, contended
- 7. roared, shouted, exclaimed, growled
- 8. argued, proclaimed, opined