

Beat Builder Answer Key

Answers will vary. Below are sample acceptable revisions that replace the "said" tag with meaningful action beats.

1. "I can't find my sketchbook," Leo muttered as he dug through his backpack.
2. "Let's try the next trail," Maya suggested while brushing pine needles off her sleeves.
3. "I think the robot is actually working," Ben whispered as he leaned closer to the blinking lights.
4. "I'm not sure I like this recipe," Tessa admitted while tasting a small spoonful.
5. "We should hurry before the rain starts," Jonah warned as he glanced at the darkening sky.

Teacher's Guide

Focus Skill: Replacing repetitive **said** tags with **action beats** to strengthen narrative clarity, pacing, and character expression.

Teaching Tips

- Explain that action beats help readers see the scene and understand the character's feelings or focus.
- Encourage students to avoid overusing dramatic movements. A small action can be powerful.
- Point out that action beats can reveal personality, mood, or setting details.

Engagement Ideas

- Have students act out the lines so they can discover natural body language to use as beats.
- Create a class "action beat wall" where students add new movement ideas throughout the week.