

Action Add-On Answer Key

Below are sample acceptable responses. Students may phrase action beats differently as long as they clearly add simple and meaningful actions.

1. Mia tuned her guitar. "Do you want to practice the song again?" she asked. Ben rolled his eyes but nodded. "I guess we should. We keep forgetting the ending."
2. Luis pointed toward a narrow path. "I think the trail goes this way." Kara folded her arms. "No, it definitely goes the other way." Luis dropped the map. "We are lost again."
3. Nora rummaged through a bin. "I can't find the paintbrushes." Theo peeked at the shelf. "They were right there." Nora shrugged in frustration. "Well, they're gone now."
4. Penny hugged her notebook. "I am not ready for the spelling test." Caleb tightened his backpack straps. "You studied more than I did." Penny traced the edge of her paper. "I still feel nervous."
5. Zach reached under the table. "Can you hand me the puzzle box?" Lila held it tight. "Only if you promise not to lose the pieces again." Zach raised a hand like an oath. "I won't lose them this time."

Teacher's Guide

Skill Focus: Adding **action beats** to dialogue to improve clarity, pacing, and visualization in narrative writing.

Teaching Tips

- Explain that action beats help readers picture who is speaking and what they are doing.
- Encourage students to use **small, realistic actions** that match the tone of the scene.

Extension

- Challenge advanced learners to write their own three-line dialogue and then enhance it with action beats.
- Invite students to revise a paragraph from a previous narrative assignment by adding clearer actions.