

Name _____

The Better Word Answer Key

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|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. conclusion | 6. eager | 11.background |
| 2. clear | 7. shows | 12.accurate |
| 3. specific | 8. nervous | 13.unexpected |
| 4. calm | 9. strong | 14.intense |
| 5. balanced | 10.every | 15.successful |

Teacher's Guide

- **Using this worksheet**
 - Emphasize that near-synonyms have subtle differences in meaning and tone.
 - Encourage students to reread the sentence with each option before deciding.
- **Differentiation**
 - Support: Discuss one word pair together and identify why one fits better.
 - Challenge: Ask students to rewrite two sentences using the non-chosen word correctly.
- **Engagement**
 - Have students defend one choice orally using context clues from the sentence.
 - Turn selected items into quick partner discussions before sharing answers.
- **Extension**
 - Students write three original sentences using near-synonym pairs correctly.
 - Connect to writing by highlighting places in student drafts where word choice could be improved.