

DEAD  
GIVEAWAYS

THE BAD



THE GOOD

AUTHOR'S CRAFT



WEAK



• Vague

• Repetition

• Throwaway

• Writing

• Weird order

• Crazy logic



Images



Sensory det.s



Pitchforks



Action



Metaphors/  
Similes



VOCAB



THOUGHTSHOTS



DIALOGUE



Personification

REVISION: Finding something from here ↑  
and improving it with something from here →

## Explanations of Terms

Revision: Find the bad writing.  
Replace it with good writing.

Example sentence: **The waiter was angry.**

	
Problem	Examples
<b>Vague</b> General; blurry non-specific	<i>There was something wrong with the guy.</i>
<b>Repetition</b> Same words or ideas, not for intentional effect	<i>He was mad, and also he was angry. He was very mad.</i>
<b>Throwaway writing</b> Telling the reader about your writing and your plans for later	<i>This is the part where I'm going to tell you about the waiter's mood. (I hope you like it.) And then we're going to take a walk on the beach.</i>
<b>Weird order words of</b> Words that have not read aloud been	<i>Mad this guy walking in was.</i>  <i>My tacos he didn't even remember me.</i>
<b>Crazy logic</b> The words do not mean what the writer is trying to say	<i>Putting her lipstick on, the waiter yelled at the lady.</i>

	
Device	Example
<b>Images</b> What you could see	<i>His face was scarlet with fury.</i>
<b>Sensory details</b> What you could hear, smell, taste	<i>We could hear his stomping feet. We caught the whiff of tension in the air.</i>
<b>Pitchforks</b> Embedded lists	<i>We couldn't tell what was worse, the food or his angry service.</i>
<b>Action</b> Replace the "to be" verbs	<i>Blazing to our table, he glared at us.</i>
<b>Metaphors</b> Describe it as something concrete (like a land form or life form)	<i>He was a volcano of anger, serving hot destruction with the menus.</i>
<b>Similes</b> Compare it to something way different	<i>He handed us our bill like a sour boyfriend breaking up.</i>
<b>Vocabulary</b> Use some of those words you have been learning	<i>This guy was definitely not benevolent enough to work in the service industry.</i>
<b>Thoughtshots</b> What might occur to you, in your head	<i>I wondered if he might snap.</i>
<b>Dialogue</b> Write the talking	<i>"What!?" he snarled.</i> <i>"Could I have some more tea?"</i> <i>"Again?"</i>
<b>Personification</b> Make an object act like a person	<i>His pen groaned resentfully as he wrote our order.</i>