

Hatchet

Chapter 18

Strong Verbs are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the rock fall into the water. (2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, when I say plunge, I get all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

Read the following passages. Underline each strong verb, and then complete the chart. There may be more than one strong verb per sentence.

- A. *He slammed his fist against the body of the plane and to his complete surprise the aluminum covering gave easily under his blow.*
- B. *He clawed down six or seven more feet, the pressure pushing in his ears until he held his nose and popped them...*
- C. *He clutched it and in one motion slammed his feet down into the mud...*
- D. *He eeled in through the cables and formers, wiggling and pulling until he was inside the tail with his head clear of the surface...*

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
A	
B	
C	
D	