Mini-Lesson 6 Don’t Say…

After punctuation, the next skills lessons are on word choice and using a dictionary and thesaurus. To begin, I hand out copies of the Don’t Say “Said” reproducible (page 38). After students have studied my example, I have them work in pairs and assign each pair an overused word. (With this activity, you can target words you find your students overusing.) Each pair then completes the Don’t Say “____” reproducible (page 39) by finding as many alternatives to the word as possible. Students share their finished product with the class and then we post the results for students to use as a source for new words.

Additional Vocabulary-Building Activities

A twist on the Don’t Say “Said” activity is to have students create I’m Talking posters, which feature an overused word and possible synonyms. For example:

I’m talking good!
I’m talking nice.
I’m talking excellent, fine, likeable,
Delightful!
I’m talking swell, keen, dandy, great,
I’m talking brilliant, superb, glorious,
Impressive!
I’m talking splendid, and pleasing,
I’m talking good!

Another vocabulary-stretching activity is to have students brainstorm words for each of the five senses. An example might include:

**Sight:** shimmering, glaring, hazy
**Touch:** dull, sharp, soft
**Taste:** tangy, bitter, savory
**Hearing:** hushed, ear-splitting, thunderous
**Smell:** pungent, aromatic, fragrant
Don’t Say “Said,” Say . . .

exclaimed
replied
declared
questioned
repeated
shouted
whispered
responded
asked
Don’t Say “________,” Say….