

400 Power Verbs

to Level-Up NAPLAN Writing


Year 5 Edition

© Scholarly - Comprehensive Writing Enhancement Guide

About This Guide

This comprehensive collection of 400 powerful verbs has been carefully selected to enhance Year 5 students' writing performance in NAPLAN assessments. Each verb includes a clear definition and an example sentence to demonstrate proper usage in context.

The verbs are organised into ten categories to help students choose the most appropriate words for different writing situations. Using varied and sophisticated vocabulary will elevate your writing and demonstrate advanced language skills.

 **Tip: Practise using these verbs in your own sentences to make them part of your active vocabulary!**

1. Action & Movement Verbs

accelerate

to increase speed or rate of progress

The cyclist began to accelerate down the steep hill.

advance

to move forward in a purposeful way

The army decided to advance towards the enemy camp.

bound

to leap or spring with energy

The kangaroo began to bound across the Australian outback.

cascade

to fall like a waterfall

Water began to cascade down the rocky cliff face.

charge

to rush forward with great energy

The elephant decided to charge towards the watering hole.

circulate

to move continuously around an area

Blood began to circulate more quickly through her veins.

dart

to move quickly and suddenly

The lizard began to dart between the rocks.

dash

to run quickly for a short distance

She had to dash across the street before the light changed.

drift

to move slowly without purpose or control

The boat began to drift slowly down the river.

emerge

to come out from a hidden place

The butterfly began to emerge from its chrysalis.

flee

to run away quickly from danger

The rabbits decided to flee when they heard the dog barking.

glide

to move smoothly and effortlessly

The eagle began to glide silently through the sky.

hurtle

to move with great speed, often dangerously

The meteorite began to hurtle towards Earth's atmosphere.

lunge

to make a sudden forward thrust

The fencer decided to lunge towards his opponent.

migrate

to move from one place to another seasonally

The birds began to migrate south for the winter.

navigate

to find one's way through or across

The captain had to navigate through the dangerous waters.

plunge

to jump or dive quickly into something

The diver decided to plunge into the crystal-clear water.

pounce

to jump suddenly to catch something

The cat began to pounce on the moving toy.

prowl

to move stealthily in search of prey

The tiger began to prowl through the dense jungle.

retreat

to move back or withdraw from danger

The soldiers decided to retreat to a safer position.

scramble

to climb or move awkwardly over rough ground

The hikers had to scramble over the rocky terrain.

soar

to fly high in the sky

The eagle began to soar above the mountain peaks.

sprint

to run at full speed for a short distance

The athlete decided to sprint towards the finish line.

stagger

to walk unsteadily

The exhausted runner began to stagger across the finish line.

streak

to move very fast in a straight line

Lightning began to streak across the dark sky.

stride

to walk with long, confident steps

The confident student began to stride into the classroom.

stumble

to trip or lose balance while walking

She began to stumble over the uneven pavement.

surge

to move forward suddenly and powerfully

The crowd began to surge towards the concert stage.

swoop

to move rapidly downward through the air

The hawk began to swoop down towards its prey.

traverse

to travel across or through

The explorers had to traverse the dangerous mountain pass.

tumble

to fall or roll suddenly

The acrobat began to tumble gracefully across the stage.

venture

to go somewhere despite possible danger

The brave explorer decided to venture into the unknown territory.

wade

to walk through water or mud

The children decided to wade through the shallow stream.

wander

to walk aimlessly without direction

The tourists began to wander through the ancient marketplace.

weave

to move by going around obstacles

The cyclist had to weave between the parked cars.

whirl

to move or spin rapidly

The dancer began to whirl gracefully across the floor.

whisk

to move quickly and lightly

The wind began to whisk the autumn leaves into the air.

zigzag

to move in a pattern of sharp turns

The skier began to zigzag down the snowy slope.

zoom

to move very quickly

The race car began to zoom around the track.

leap

to jump high or far

The gymnast began to leap over the vaulting horse.

2. Thinking & Mental Process Verbs

analyse

to examine something carefully and in detail

The scientist decided to analyse the mysterious chemical compound.

anticipate

to expect or predict something

The chess player began to anticipate her opponent's next move.

assume

to suppose something is true without proof

The detective began to assume the butler was innocent.

calculate

to work out using numbers or careful thought

The engineer had to calculate the bridge's weight capacity.

comprehend

to understand something completely

The student began to comprehend the complex mathematical concept.

conceive

to form an idea or plan in the mind

The inventor began to conceive a revolutionary new machine.

concentrate

to focus all attention on one thing

The student had to concentrate during the difficult exam.

conclude

to decide something after thinking carefully

The jury began to conclude that the evidence was convincing.

contemplate

to think deeply about something

The philosopher began to contemplate the meaning of existence.

deduce

to work out based on available information

Sherlock Holmes began to deduce the criminal's identity.

deliberate

to think carefully before making a decision

The committee had to deliberate before announcing the winner.

devise

to plan or invent something cleverly

The students had to devise a solution to the environmental problem.

distinguish

to recognise the difference between things

The bird watcher could distinguish between similar species.

envision

to imagine or picture in the mind

The architect began to envision the completed building.

evaluate

to judge the value or quality of something

The teacher had to evaluate each student's performance.

examine

to look at something closely and carefully

The doctor began to examine the patient's unusual symptoms.

hypothesise

to suggest a possible explanation

The researcher began to hypothesise about the strange phenomenon.

infer

to work out from evidence and reasoning

The archaeologist could infer the age of the ancient pottery.

interpret

to explain the meaning of something

The translator had to interpret the foreign diplomat's speech.

investigate

to examine something systematically

The police began to investigate the mysterious disappearance.

meditate

to think deeply in a calm, focused way

The monk would meditate quietly in the peaceful garden.

memorise

to learn something by heart

The actor had to memorise all of his lines perfectly.

monitor

to watch and check regularly

The nurse had to monitor the patient's vital signs.

observe

to watch carefully and notice details

The scientist began to observe the behaviour of the laboratory mice.

perceive

to become aware of through the senses

She began to perceive a change in her friend's attitude.

ponder

to think about something carefully

The student began to ponder the difficult question.

process

to deal with information mentally

The computer began to process the complex data.

rationalise

to find logical reasons for something

He tried to rationalise his impulsive decision.

reason

to think logically about something

The lawyer began to reason through the complex legal case.

recall

to remember something from the past

The witness tried to recall the exact details of the incident.

recognise

to identify someone or something previously known

She began to recognise her old teacher in the crowd.

reflect

to think carefully about past events

The student began to reflect on her learning journey.

scrutinise

to examine very carefully

The judge began to scrutinise the important evidence.

speculate

to form theories without firm evidence

The historians began to speculate about the ancient civilisation.

strategise

to plan a course of action

The coach began to strategise for the championship game.

study

to learn about something systematically

The researcher decided to study the migration patterns of whales.

synthesise

to combine ideas to form something new

The scientist began to synthesise the research findings.

theorise

to form a theory or idea

Einstein began to theorise about the nature of time.

visualise

to form a mental picture of something

The athlete began to visualise crossing the finish line first.

wonder

to think about something with curiosity

The child began to wonder about the stars in the sky.

3. Feeling & Emotion Verbs

adore

to love and respect deeply

The little girl began to adore her new baby brother.

agonise

to suffer great mental pain

The student began to agonise over her exam results.

appreciate

to value or be grateful for something

She began to appreciate her parents' hard work.

cherish

to love and protect something precious

The grandmother began to cherish her family memories.

crave

to want something very much

After the long hike, she began to crave cold water.

despair

to lose all hope

The lost traveller began to despair of finding the path.

despise

to hate or strongly dislike

The hero began to despise the villain's cruel actions.

dread

to fear something that might happen

The student began to dread the upcoming presentation.

empathise

to understand and share someone's feelings

The nurse began to empathise with the worried family.

envy

to want what someone else has

She began to envy her friend's artistic talent.

exhilarate

to make someone feel very excited

The roller coaster ride began to exhilarate the brave passengers.

fascinate

to attract intense interest

The documentary began to fascinate the curious viewers.

fret

to worry constantly about something

The mother began to fret about her son's safety.

grieve

to feel deep sadness over a loss

The family began to grieve for their beloved pet.

hope

to want something to happen

The team began to hope for victory in the final match.

loathe

to hate intensely

She began to loathe the taste of bitter medicine.

long

to yearn deeply for something

The homesick student began to long for her family.

mourn

to feel sadness for someone who has died

The community began to mourn the loss of their leader.

panic

to feel sudden overwhelming fear

The crowd began to panic when they heard the alarm.

pity

to feel sorry for someone

She began to pity the lonely old man.

rejoice

to feel great joy and celebration

The fans began to rejoice when their team scored.

relish

to enjoy something greatly

The food critic began to relish the delicious meal.

resent

to feel angry about unfair treatment

The workers began to resent their low wages.

revere

to respect and admire deeply

The students began to revere their wise teacher.

savour

to enjoy something slowly and fully

She began to savour the peaceful moment.

suffer

to experience pain or distress

The injured athlete began to suffer from the pain.

sympathise

to feel compassion for someone

The teacher began to sympathise with the struggling student.

treasure

to value something highly

The child began to treasure her grandmother's stories.

trust

to believe in someone's reliability

The dog began to trust its new owner completely.

value

to consider something important

She began to value honesty above all else.

worship

to admire or respect greatly

The young musician began to worship his musical hero.

yearn

to have a deep longing for something

The refugee began to yearn for her homeland.

admire

to regard with respect and approval

The young artist began to admire the master's technique.

delight

to give great pleasure to someone

The surprise party began to delight the birthday girl.

disappoint

to fail to fulfill someone's hopes

The cancelled concert began to disappoint the eager fans.

embarrass

to make someone feel awkward or ashamed

The public mistake began to embarrass the nervous speaker.

encourage

to give support and confidence

The coach began to encourage the tired team.

irritate

to annoy or make angry

The constant noise began to irritate the studying student.

terrify

to fill with extreme fear

The thunderstorm began to terrify the small children.

thrill

to cause excitement and pleasure

The circus performance began to thrill the amazed audience.

4. Speaking & Communication Verbs

announce

to make a public statement

The principal began to announce the winners of the competition.

argue

to give reasons for or against something

The lawyer began to argue her case persuasively.

articulate

to express thoughts clearly

The student began to articulate her complex ideas.

bellow

to shout in a loud, deep voice

The angry coach began to bellow instructions from the sideline.

boast

to talk proudly about achievements

The winner began to boast about his victory.

broadcast

to transmit information widely

The radio station began to broadcast the emergency warning.

chant

to repeat words rhythmically

The protesters began to chant slogans in the street.

chatter

to talk quickly about unimportant things

The excited children began to chatter about their holiday.

communicate

to share information or ideas

The scientist began to communicate her discoveries to colleagues.

confess

to admit something reluctantly

The guilty student began to confess to breaking the window.

converse

to have a conversation

The friendly neighbours began to converse over the fence.

debate

to discuss opposing viewpoints

The politicians began to debate the important policy.

declare

to state something firmly

The judge began to declare the court in session.

dictate

to speak for someone else to write down

The manager began to dictate a letter to her secretary.

discuss

to talk about something in detail

The team began to discuss their strategy for tomorrow.

emphasise

to stress the importance of something

The teacher began to emphasise the key points.

enquire

to ask for information

The curious student began to enquire about the science project.

exclaim

to say something suddenly with strong feeling

The surprised child began to exclaim with joy.

explain

to make something clear by describing

The instructor began to explain the complicated procedure.

gossip

to talk about other people's private affairs

The women began to gossip about their neighbours.

grumble

to complain quietly

The tired workers began to grumble about the long hours.

inform

to give information to someone

The doctor began to inform the family about the test results.

interrupt

to stop someone while they are speaking

The urgent phone call began to interrupt the meeting.

lecture

to speak seriously to teach or criticise

The professor began to lecture about ancient history.

mention

to refer to something briefly

She began to mention her concerns about the project.

murmur

to speak very softly

The mother began to murmur gently to her sleeping baby.

narrate

to tell a story

The storyteller began to narrate the ancient legend.

negotiate

to discuss terms to reach agreement

The diplomats began to negotiate a peace treaty.

notify

to inform someone officially

The school began to notify parents about the schedule change.

persuade

to convince someone through reasoning

The salesperson began to persuade the customer to buy.

plead

to make an emotional appeal

The defendant began to plead for mercy from the judge.

proclaim

to announce something publicly

The mayor began to proclaim the start of the festival.

pronounce

to say words correctly

The teacher began to pronounce the difficult foreign words.

recite

to say something from memory

The student began to recite the poem perfectly.

reveal

to make known something previously secret

The magician began to reveal the secret behind the trick.

shout

to speak very loudly

The excited fans began to shout encouragement to their team.

stammer

to speak with repeated hesitations

The nervous student began to stammer during the presentation.

utter

to speak or make a sound

The surprised witness could barely utter a word.

whisper

to speak very quietly

The conspirators began to whisper their secret plans.

yell

to shout loudly

The coach began to yell instructions from across the field.

5. Descriptive & State Verbs

appear

to seem or come into sight

The mysterious figure began to appear through the morning mist.

become

to grow or develop into something

The caterpillar began to become a beautiful butterfly.

belong

to be the property of someone

The ancient sword began to belong to the museum collection.

consist

to be made up of particular parts

The delicious meal began to consist of fresh ingredients.

contain

to have something inside

The mysterious box began to contain valuable treasures.

endure

to last for a long time

The ancient building began to endure for centuries.

exist

to be real or present

The rare species began to exist only in remote areas.

flourish

to grow or develop successfully

The garden began to flourish under careful attention.

glimmer

to shine with a faint, unsteady light

The stars began to glimmer in the evening sky.

glisten

to shine with reflected light

The dewdrops began to glisten on the morning grass.

glow

to emit a steady light

The fireflies began to glow softly in the darkness.

inhabit

to live in a particular place

The rare birds began to inhabit the protected forest.

lack

to be without something needed

The desert began to lack sufficient water for plants.

linger

to stay in a place longer than expected

The sweet fragrance began to linger in the air.

loom

to appear threateningly large

The dark storm clouds began to loom on the horizon.

mature

to become fully grown or developed

The young wine began to mature in the cellar.

persist

to continue despite difficulties

The strange symptoms began to persist for weeks.

prevail

to be widespread or dominant

Peace began to prevail throughout the kingdom.

radiate

to spread outward from a central point

Heat began to radiate from the campfire.

remain

to continue to exist or stay

The ancient ruins began to remain as historical evidence.

resemble

to be similar to something else

The clouds began to resemble fluffy cotton balls.

reside

to live in a particular place

The family began to reside in the countryside.

shimmer

to shine with a soft, wavering light

The lake began to shimmer under the moonlight.

sparkle

to shine brightly with flashes of light

The diamonds began to sparkle in the jewellery display.

stretch

to extend over a distance

The vast desert began to stretch beyond the horizon.

thrive

to grow vigorously and successfully

The business began to thrive in the new location.

twinkle

to shine with a flickering light

The stars began to twinkle brightly in the clear sky.

vanish

to disappear suddenly

The magician's assistant began to vanish before everyone's eyes.

waver

to move unsteadily back and forth

The flame began to waver in the gentle breeze.

wither

to become dry and shrivelled

The flowers began to wither without water.

shrink

to become smaller in size

The woollen jumper began to shrink in the hot wash.

expand

to become larger or more extensive

The balloon began to expand as it filled with air.

deteriorate

to become progressively worse

The old building began to deteriorate without maintenance.

intensify

to become stronger or more extreme

The storm began to intensify throughout the night.

diminish

to make or become smaller or less

The noise began to diminish as the crowd dispersed.

evolve

to develop gradually over time

The technology began to evolve rapidly each year.

fluctuate

to rise and fall irregularly

The temperature began to fluctuate throughout the day.

multiply

to increase in number significantly

The rabbit population began to multiply rapidly.

stabilise

to become steady and unchanging

The patient's condition began to stabilise after treatment.

transform

to change completely in form or appearance

The renovation began to transform the old house.

vibrate

to move rapidly back and forth

The guitar strings began to vibrate when plucked.

6. Creative & Artistic Verbs

compose

to create music or writing

The talented musician began to compose a beautiful symphony.

craft

to make something skillfully by hand

The artisan began to craft a delicate pottery vase.

create

to bring something new into existence

The artist began to create a masterpiece on the canvas.

design

to plan and draw something before making it

The architect began to design the new community centre.

draft

to write a first version of something

The author began to draft her next novel.

embellish

to decorate or add attractive details

The seamstress began to embellish the dress with pearls.

engrave

to cut designs into a hard surface

The jeweller began to engrave the couple's names on the ring.

fashion

to shape or create something

The sculptor began to fashion clay into human figures.

illustrate

to add pictures to explain or decorate

The artist began to illustrate the children's book.

improvise

to create or perform without preparation

The jazz musician began to improvise an amazing solo.

innovate

to introduce new ideas or methods

The inventor began to innovate revolutionary technology.

inspire

to fill with creative or uplifting feelings

The sunset began to inspire the young poet.

mould

to shape something soft into a particular form

The potter began to mould the wet clay carefully.

originate

to create or start something new

The dance style began to originate in the local community.

paint

to apply colour using brushes

The artist began to paint vibrant landscapes.

perform

to present entertainment to an audience

The dancers began to perform gracefully on stage.

portray

to represent or describe in art

The actor began to portray the historical character.

refine

to improve by making small changes

The chef began to refine her signature recipe.

rehearse

to practise before a performance

The orchestra began to rehearse for tomorrow's concert.

render

to represent or reproduce artistically

The artist began to render the portrait in charcoal.

revise

to change and improve written work

The author began to revise her manuscript carefully.

sculpt

to create three-dimensional art

The artist began to sculpt figures from marble.

sketch

to draw quickly with simple lines

The designer began to sketch ideas for the new building.

stage

to organise and present a performance

The school began to stage a production of Shakespeare.

weave

to create fabric by interlacing threads

The craftsman began to weave beautiful patterns.

blend

to mix things together harmoniously

The artist began to blend colours on the palette.

capture

to record or represent accurately

The photographer began to capture the perfect moment.

choreograph

to design and arrange dance movements

The instructor began to choreograph a stunning routine.

compile

to collect and assemble from various sources

The editor began to compile poetry for the anthology.

decorate

to make something more attractive

The students began to decorate the classroom for the celebration.

exhibit

to display publicly for others to see

The gallery began to exhibit contemporary artwork.

experiment

to try new approaches or techniques

The young artist began to experiment with different materials.

express

to convey thoughts or feelings

The musician began to express emotion through melody.

harmonise

to add musical harmony or bring into agreement

The choir began to harmonise beautifully together.

invent

to create something completely new

The creative child began to invent imaginative stories.

orchestrate

to arrange music for an orchestra

The composer began to orchestrate the symphony.

publish

to prepare and issue for public sale

The author began to publish her first novel.

recreate

to create again or make a copy

The historian began to recreate ancient cooking methods.

reimagine

to think about something in a completely new way

The director began to reimagine the classic fairy tale.

restore

to return something to its original condition

The expert began to restore the damaged painting.

7. Problem-Solving Verbs

address

to deal with or tackle a problem

The committee began to address the budget concerns.

adapt

to adjust to new conditions

The team had to adapt their strategy for the new rules.

adjust

to change slightly to improve

The mechanic began to adjust the engine timing.

brainstorm

to think of many ideas quickly

The students began to brainstorm solutions to climate change.

collaborate

to work together towards a common goal

Scientists began to collaborate on the research project.

compromise

to reach agreement by giving up something

Both parties began to compromise on the contract terms.

configure

to arrange or set up in a particular way

The technician began to configure the new software.

construct

to build or put together

The engineers began to construct a bridge across the river.

debug

to find and fix problems

The programmer began to debug the faulty code.

deploy

to position strategically for use

The general began to deploy troops to defend the city.

diagnose

to identify the cause of a problem

The doctor began to diagnose the patient's illness.

engineer

to design and build something complex

The team began to engineer a solution to the water shortage.

execute

to carry out a plan successfully

The captain began to execute the rescue mission.

facilitate

to make a process easier

The mediator began to facilitate discussions between groups.

implement

to put a plan into action

The school began to implement new safety measures.

improvise

to create solutions without preparation

The chef had to improvise when ingredients ran out.

innovate

to introduce new methods or ideas

The company began to innovate sustainable packaging.

integrate

to combine parts into a whole

The designer began to integrate technology with art.

maintain

to keep in good working condition

The gardener began to maintain the beautiful flower beds.

manage

to control and organise effectively

The project leader began to manage the complex timeline.

mediate

to help resolve conflicts between parties

The counsellor began to mediate between the arguing friends.

modify

to make partial changes to improve

The architect began to modify the building plans.

negotiate

to discuss terms to reach agreement

The lawyers began to negotiate the settlement terms.

optimise

to make as effective as possible

The coach began to optimise the team's training schedule.

organise

to arrange systematically

The librarian began to organise books by subject.

plan

to think out actions in advance

The family began to plan their summer holiday.

prioritise

to arrange in order of importance

The manager began to prioritise urgent tasks.

rectify

to correct or put right

The accountant began to rectify the calculation errors.

resolve

to find a solution to a problem

The technician began to resolve the computer issue.

restructure

to organise differently

The company began to restructure its departments.

revamp

to give new and improved form

The designers began to revamp the outdated website.

strategise

to devise a plan of action

The generals began to strategise for the upcoming battle.

streamline

to make more efficient

The manager began to streamline the approval process.

synthesise

to combine elements into a coherent whole

The researcher began to synthesise data