

Telling vs. Showing

**Telling:** simply stating something from a story  
**Showing:** use descriptive details and precise verbs to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Part 1 - Teacher Performances

Performance 1: Telling Nervous	Performance 2: Showing Nervous
What do you notice?	What do you notice?
What is your teacher feeling?	What is your teacher feeling?
How do you know?	How do you know?

Identify one precise verb from your list of observations: \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2 - Practice Details

Write down three things you might see that SHOW:  
Ms. Jarrett is nervous.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ran	covered	broke	found
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• bolted</li><li>• darted</li><li>• hurried</li><li>• scampered</li><li>• raced</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• buried</li><li>• masked</li><li>• concealed</li><li>• veiled</li><li>• wrapped</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cracked</li><li>• shattered</li><li>• smashed</li><li>• fractured</li><li>• crushed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• uncovered</li><li>• located</li><li>• recovered</li><li>• spotted</li><li>• unearthed</li></ul>
gave	held	pulled	threw
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• awarded</li><li>• contributed</li><li>• granted</li><li>• supplied</li><li>• bestowed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• clasped</li><li>• clenched</li><li>• clutched</li><li>• gripped</li><li>• grasped</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dragged</li><li>• hauled</li><li>• heaved</li><li>• yanked</li><li>• tugged</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• chucked</li><li>• flung</li><li>• hurled</li><li>• launched</li><li>• catapulted</li></ul>

### **Part 3 - Practice Showing**

Read each telling situation. Then rewrite the situation by **SHOWING**, using details to describe exactly what you might see to make the situation really come to life. Get creative!

1. John was angry.

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2. Lisa was very confused about her homework.

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3. Tatiana felt frustrated with her friend.

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4. Anne was proud of her team after they won the game.

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