

## 123 WAYS TO SAY "SAID"

|    |                |    |             |     |             |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|-----|-------------|
| 1  | acknowledged   | 42 | entreated   | 83  | proposed    |
| 2  | added          | 43 | established | 84  | protested   |
| 3  | adjured        | 44 | estimated   | 85  | proved      |
| 4  | admitted       | 45 | exaggerated | 86  | pushed      |
| 5  | advised        | 46 | exclaimed   | 87  | questioned  |
| 6  | affirmed       | 47 | explained   | 88  | quipped     |
| 7  | aforementioned | 48 | expressed   | 89  | ranted      |
| 8  | agreed         | 49 | gaspd       | 90  | recited     |
| 9  | announced      | 50 | growled     | 91  | recommended |
| 10 | answered       | 51 | grunted     | 92  | related     |
| 11 | argued         | 52 | hinted      | 93  | remarked    |
| 12 | asked          | 53 | implied     | 94  | remitted    |
| 13 | asserted       | 54 | implored    | 95  | repeated    |
| 14 | assured        | 55 | influenced  | 96  | replied     |
| 15 | avowed         | 56 | informed    | 97  | reported    |
| 16 | babbled        | 57 | insisted    | 98  | requested   |
| 17 | begged         | 58 | inspired    | 99  | revealed    |
| 18 | bellowed       | 59 | interjected | 100 | said        |
| 19 | beseched       | 60 | interrupted | 101 | screeched   |
| 20 | blurted        | 61 | interceded  | 102 | shouted     |
| 21 | bragged        | 62 | jabbered    | 103 | shrieked    |
| 22 | cautioned      | 63 | joked       | 104 | sighed      |
| 23 | challenged     | 64 | lied        | 105 | sounded     |
| 24 | claimed        | 65 | maintained  | 106 | speculated  |
| 25 | clarified      | 66 | mentioned   | 107 | spoken      |
| 26 | commented      | 67 | motioned    | 108 | suggested   |
| 27 | conceded       | 68 | mouthed     | 109 | supplied    |
| 28 | concluded      | 69 | mumbled     | 110 | theorized   |
| 29 | confessed      | 70 | murmured    | 111 | threatened  |
| 30 | confided       | 71 | negotiated  | 112 | told        |
| 31 | continued      | 72 | noted       | 113 | uttered     |
| 32 | corrected      | 73 | offered     | 114 | voiced      |
| 33 | cried          | 74 | ordered     | 115 | volunteered |
| 34 | decided        | 75 | panted      | 116 | warned      |
| 35 | declared       | 76 | persisted   | 117 | whimpered   |
| 36 | demanded       | 77 | persuaded   | 118 | whined      |
| 37 | denied         | 78 | pleaded     | 119 | whispered   |
| 38 | disclosed      | 79 | pointed out | 120 | witnessed   |
| 39 | divulged       | 80 | prayed      | 121 | wondered    |
| 40 | emphasized     | 81 | proclaimed  | 122 | yapped      |
| 41 | encouraged     | 82 | promised    | 123 | yelled      |

Dialogue can bring a story to life, or it can put the reader to sleep. Here are lively alternatives to ho-hum "he said/she said" exchanges. Use these vocal verbs in place of "said" or use the vocal adverbs to describe just how "he said/she said." Working with dialogue is a simple but very effective way to improve your storytelling.

### VOCAL VERBS

added  
 admitted  
 advised  
 agreed  
 announced  
 answered  
 argued  
 asked  
 asserted  
 began  
 bellowed  
 blurted  
 called  
 cautioned  
 claimed  
 commented  
 complained  
 conceded  
 concluded  
 confessed  
 continued  
 cried  
 demanded  
 exclaimed  
 explained  
 gasped  
 groaned  
 insisted  
 interrupted  
 joked  
 lied  
 mentioned  
 moaned  
 mumbled  
 muttered  
 noted  
 objected  
 observed  
 ordered  
 quipped  
 remarked

replied  
 reported  
 responded  
 said  
 screamed  
 shouted  
 snapped  
 sobbed  
 stated  
 swore  
 taunted  
 teased  
 told  
 vowed  
 warned  
 whined  
 whispered  
 yelled

### VOCAL ADVERBS

adamantly  
 admiringly  
 adoringly  
 angrily  
 anxiously  
 arrogantly  
 bashfully  
 brazenly  
 casually  
 cautiously  
 cheerfully  
 clearly  
 cowardly  
 coyly  
 curiously  
 cynically  
 decisively  
 defensively  
 defiantly  
 dramatically  
 eerily  
 energetically

fiendishly  
 flatly  
 formally  
 gaily  
 gleefully  
 gloomily  
 happily  
 harshly  
 hysterically  
 jealously  
 joyfully  
 joyously  
 loudly  
 lovingly  
 meanly  
 meekly  
 mysteriously  
 nervously  
 off-handedly  
 offensively  
 pensively  
 proudly

questioningly  
 quickly  
 quizzically  
 rapidly  
 sadly  
 sarcastically  
 selfishly  
 serenely  
 seriously  
 sheepishly  
 shyly  
 sleepily  
 softly  
 sternly  
 stoically  
 stubbornly  
 sullenly  
 tauntingly  
 teasingly  
 tenderly  
 thankfully  
 thoughtfully  
 unexpectedly  
 unhappily  
 wisely

