

ACTIVE VERBS LIST

Agree

Nod
Consent
Comply
Concur
Accept
Acknowledge
Consent

Appear

Show
Flash
Materialize
Surface
Bloom
Flower
Manifest
Surface
Emerge
Develop
Spawn
Arrive
Arise

Ask

Request
Question
Inquire
Pose
Proposition
Solicit
Plead
Cross-examine
Demand
Grill
Interrogate
Needle
Query

Quiz

Attack

Assault
Strike
Ambush
Assail
Rush
Storm
Bombard
Barrage
Smite
Charge
Molest
Waylay
Clobber
Battle
Batter
Hammer
Beat
Beset
Combat
Overwhelm
Raid

Attempt

Try
Endeavor
Undertake
Strive
Tackle
Embark
Shot
Strive
Seek
Gamble
Chance
Venture

Break

Crack
Rupture
Smash
Shatter
Fracture
Splinter
Pulverize
Tear
Rend
Snap
Burst
Explode
Bust
Damage
Fragment
Split
(see SPLIT)

Bring

Fetch
Gather
Retrieve
Return
Carry
Deliver
Lug
Fetch
Gather
Guide
Pack
Tote
Convey
Import
Pick up

Build

Erect
Raise
Frame
Shape
Firm
Construct
Layer
Stack
Reinforce
Fortify
Create
Fashion
Form

Bump

Nudge
Tap
Jostle
Jar
Knock
Jolt
Thump
Butt
Clatter
Strike
Whack
Slam
Rap

Call

Summon
Shout
Request
Cry
Yell
Scream
Holler
Utter

Exclaim
Hail
Signal
Bellow
Bawl
Roar
Proclaim

Change

Shift
Transform
Modify
Twist
Mutate
Distort
Blur
Flux
Adjust
Switch
Fluctuate
Warp
Alter
Adapt
Evolve
Reform
Vary

Chase

Hunt
Trail
Pursue
Track
Follow
Stalk
Shadow
Hound
Case

Choose

Pick
Draw
Select

Vote
Opt
Pluck
Prefer
Winnow
Determine

Climb

Mount
Ascend
Rise
Shimmy
Scramble
Scale
Heave
Spring
Top
Crest

Close

Shut
Seal
Shutter
Slam
Fasten
Sheathe
Fold
Batten
Cage
Secure
Batten
Lock down
Plug

Collect

Gather
Corral
Garner
Group
Hoard
Scrape
Stockpile

Reap
Harvest
Amass
Accrue
Assemble
Compile
Save
Cache
Store

Come

Approach
Arrive
Enter
Advance
Converge
Meet
Appear
Show up
Attend

Cover

Shelter
Cloak
Shroud
Enclose
Clothe
Screen
Conceal
Hide
Disguise
Mask
Bury
Smother
Crust
Cloud
Shield
Shade
Film
Seal
Envelop
Veil

Wrap
Blanket
Obscure
Curtain
(see HIDE)

Cross

Traverse
Pass
Ford
Bridge
Glide
Cut over

Cry

Howl
Whimper
Call
Scream
Shriek
Squeal
Roar
Mewl
Hoot
Squall
Wail
Holler
Yelp
Bawl
Screech
Yammer
Whoop
Bray
Cheer
Yell
Shout
Trill

Cut

Cleave
Chop
Chip

Sever
Slice
Snip
Divide
Prune
Trim
Split
Axe
Slash
Rend
Tear
Thin
Crop
Carve
Dissect
Hack
Hew
Nick
Pierce
Saw
Score
Shave
Shear

Dig

Mine
Delve
Excavate
Burrow
Drill
Core
Hollow
Rout
Unearth
Gouge
Tunnel
Exhume
Dredge up

Drag

Draw
Pull

Lug
Haul
Tow
Tote
Trawl
Yank
Trail
Tug
Yarn
Transport

Enter

Penetrate
Invade
Board
Access
Barge in
Burst into
Trespass
Drop in
Wander
Infiltrate
Intrude
Encroach
Pierce

Escape

Evade
Flee
Avoid
Bail
Run
Elude
Clear out
Dodge
Duck
Bolt
Sidestep
Scramble
Leave
Slip out
Sneak away

(see LEAVE)

Fall

Tumble
Collapse
Spill
Plunge
Crumple
Pitch
Crash
Drop
Buckle
Plummet
Slant
Slip
Dive
Stumble
Topple
Sink
Slump
Trip

Fight

Battle
Tussle
Wrestle
Scuffle
Duel
Brawl
Joust
Spar
War
Clash
Grapple
Scrap
Quarrel
Struggle
Assault
Attack
Feud
Skirmish

Find

Discover
Locate
Detect
Notice
Catch
Obtain
Solve
Acquire
Uncover
Unearth
Reveal
Expose

Fit

Set
Rig
Cram
Place
Nest
Mold
Blend
Wedge
Implant
Lock
Apply
Arrange
Stuff
Force
Jam
Pack
Press
Pound

Fix

Repair
Patch
Mend
Cure
Service
Darn
Cobble

Rebuild
Tinker
Refit
Maintain
Renovate
Improve
Correct
Doctor
Restore

Get

Take
Receive
Catch
Gain
Obtain
Earn
Reap
Gather
Score
Win
Acquire
Accomplish
Procure
Attain
Elicit
Extract
Fetch
Inherit
Secure

Give

Gift
Pass
Toss
Hand
Deliver
Distribute
Offer
Donate
Bestow
Grant

Parcel out
Sacrifice
Award
Bequeath
Confer
Dispense
Present

Grab

Take
Steal
Snatch
Seize
Clutch
Hook
Grip
Net
Snag
Arrest
Apprehend
Appropriate
Claim
Grapple
Trap
Catch
Snap up
Nick
Wrench
Pluck

Help

Aid
Support
Assist
Comfort
Boost
Further
Relieve
Attend
Nurture
Advise
Guide

Encourage
Heal
Advocate
Befriend
Intercede
Save
Serve

Hide

Conceal
Obscure
Cover
Disguise
Mask
Hole up
Squirrel away
Stash
Smuggle
Stow
Bury
Camouflage
Protect
Screen
(See COVER)

Hit

Bash
Smack
Slap
Slash
Slam
Punch
Clap
Bump
Swing
Slug
Poke
Wallop
Knock
Slam
Drill
Smoke

Deck
Ram
Strike
Beat
Clobber
Flog
Pound
Swat
Whack

Hold

Cradle
Grasp
Support
Bolster
Carry
Prop
Shoulder
Shelter
Handle
Grip
Clasp
Clench
Clutch
Squeeze

Hurry

Speed
Rush
Hustle
Scamper
Pelt
Scurry
Bolt
Bustle
Dash
Advance
Glide
Cruise
Sweep
Zip
Slide

Scuttle
Expedite
Hasten
Quicken

Join

Meld
Blend
Weld
Hinge
Staple
Pin
Splice
Couple
Seam
Stitch
Tether
Unite
Marry
Knit
Bridge
Add
Graft
Glue
Cement
Merge
Adhere
Affix
Attach
Combine
Fasten
Fuse
Link
Pair
Weave

Jump

Leap
Bounce
Spring
Vault
Bound

Hop
Hurdle
Pounce
Trounce
Skip
Lurch
Surge
Leapfrog

Kick

Boot
Punt
Dropkick

Know

Sense
Perceive
Detect

Intuit

Feel
Realize
Understand
Identify
Discern

Lay

Deposit
Set
Place
Position
Rest
Plant
Settle
Nest
Lodge
Seat
Spread
Drop
Put

Leave

Depart

Abandon
Set forth
Vacate
Quit
Maroon
Evacuate
Take off
Ditch

Forsake
Split
Scram
Withdraw
Disappear
Defect

Exit
Retire
(see ESCAPE)

Lessen

Fade
Bleed
Evaporate
Shrink
Wane
Shrivel
Slacken
Curb
Weaken
Taper
Dampen
Deplete
Lighten
Limit
Trim
Reduce
Curb
Cull
Dwindle
Blunt
Abate
Minimize
Diminish

Curtail
Cut back
Decrease
Mitigate
Thin out

Lift

Raise/Rise
Hoist
Heave
Elevate
Winch
Heft
Crane
Hike
Boost
Jack up
Mount
Uphold

Listen

Hear
Eavesdrop
Heed
Attend
Mind
Monitor
Overhear
Tune in
Catch

Look

Eye
Gawk
Stare
Watch
Peek
Ogle
Browse
Glimpse
Leer
Glance

Peep
Squint
Scan
Seek
Notice
See
Focus
Behold
(See WATCH)

Make
Fashion
Invent
Forge
Brew
Create
Form
Sculpt
Assemble
Mold
Combine
Beget
Conceive
Design
Forge
Produce
Shape

Move
Slide
Shift
Jar
Maneuver
Position
Nudge
Budge
Pop out
Work at
Displace
Relocate
Tap
Fiddle

Jiggle
Need
Require
Demand
Exact
Claim
(see WANT)

Open
Spread
Unfold
Peel
Unzip
Reveal
Widen
Expose
Gape
Bare
Expand
Unbolt
Unlock
Unhinge
Unfasten
Uncover
Unfurl
Unroll
Display
Uncork
Undo
Free
Release

Play
Dabble
Act
Gambol
Flirt
Caper
Toy
Maneuver
Frolic

Entertain
Cavort
Clown
Rejoice
Romp
Dally
Frisk
Joke
Kid
Tease

Pick
Gather
Collect
Pluck
Select
Bag
Clasp
Grasp
Hook
Harvest
Cull

Push
Shove
Press
Nudge
Drive
Prod
Poke
Elbow
Jostle
Knock
Strain
Thrust
Crowd
Jam
Squish
Bulldoze
Force
Crush
Encourage

Impel
Muscle
Propel
Remember
Recall
Memorialize
Recognize
Recollect
Call to mind
Revive
Think back to
Flash back to
Reminisce about

Ride
Gallop
Jockey
Mount
Surf
Cruise
Speed
Coast
Glide

Rub
Chafe
Nuzzle
Caress
Grind
Smudge
Smear
Scrub
Lather
Polish
Knead
Scrape
Scour
Stroke
Massage
Smooth
Buff

Graze
Brush
Touch
Caress
Scrub
Smooth
Wipe
(see TOUCH)

Run

Gallop
Trot
Race
Streak
Lope
Scurry
Scamper
Jog
Dash
Scuttle
Rush
Stampede
Jet
Dart
Scoot
Speed
Sprint
Canter
Amble
Scoot
Barrel
Flee
Fly
Hustle
Pelt

Say

Speak
Articulate
Yammer
Blubber
Blab

Address
Mouth
Utter
Murmur
Mutter
Stammer

Swear
Curse
Rant
Rave
Jabber
Converse
Discuss
Whisper
Snarl
Stutter
Banter
Chant
Chat
Dictate
Drone
Drawl
Spout
Jibber
Sputter
Yell

Search

Quest
Forage
Hunt
Rummage
Seek
Probe
Delve
Scout
Scour
Investigate
Ferret
Browse
Pursue
Explore

Ransack
Sift
Dig
Examine
Inquire

Send

Ship
Cast
Maneuver
Transport
Broadcast
Transfer
Radiate
Channel
Route
Volley
Transmit
Relay
Wire
Publish

Shake

Shiver
Convulse
Quiver
Quake
Tremble
Totter
Judder
Vibrate
Rattle
Jolt
Churn
Shudder
Tremor
Slosh
Agitate
Quaver
Thrash
Flutter
Jerk

Twitch
Spasm
Lurch
Squirm
Twinge
Palpitate
Throb
Ripple

Sit

Recline
Squat
Perch
Roost
Rest
Sprawl
Straddle
Crouch
Huddle
Slouch
Lounge
Flop
Laze
Plop
Park
Hunker
Relax
Settle

Split

Part
Cleave
Chop
Rupture
Hack
Sever
Slit
Carve
Cut
Divide
Halve
Break

Sunder
Separate
Rend
Rip

Start

Begin
Jump
Launch
Embark
Enter
Set out
Dawn
Plunge
Erupt
Birth
Spring
Sally
Activate
Initiate
Commence
Initiate
Pioneer

Stop

Retire
Halt
Cease
Quit
Stall
Pause
End
Hitch
Finish
Rein
Freeze
Suspend
Hold
Belay
Terminate
Desist
Conclude

Discontinue
Refrain

Throw

Hurl
Flip
Toss
Fling
Propel
Sling
Chuck
Heave
Launch
Fire
Catapult
Pitch
Thrust
Volley
Cast
Discharge

Lob
Pelt
Peg

Touch

Feel
Caress
Brush
Fondle
Glove
Palm
Smooth
Stroke
Tickle
Dab
Finger
Graze
Pat
Pet
(see RUB)

Trap

Imprison
Snare
Corner
Entangle
Hold
Pin
Catch
Restrain
Bind
Hook
Snag
Snatch
Clutch
Pinch
Chain
Cage
Surround
Handcuff
Shackle
Capture

Turn

Twist
Tilt
Round
Lean
Crank
Swerve
Switch
Swing
Swirl
Twirl
Swivel
Pivot
Whirl
Curl
Circle
Fork
Sway
Spin
Revolve
Bend

Loop
Rotate

Use

Wield
Handle
Work
Employ
Adopt
Practice
Manipulate
Operate
Utilize

Visit

Haunt
Frequent
Attend
Call on
Tour
Court
Drop in

Wait

Delay
Pause
Linger
Remain
Stay
Hold
Stand
Adhere
Haunt
Bide
Loiter
Hover
Roost
Settle
Lag
Pause
Perch
Tarry

Dwell
Dally
Hang out
Idle
Hesitate
Procrastinate

Walk

Coast
Pad
Amble
Saunter
Stroll
Strut
Swagger
Trudge
Stride
Tiptoe
Creep
Sneak
Stamp
Clump
Tramp
Parade
Plod
Slog
Limp
Totter
Glide
Pace
March
Shuffle
Lurch
Trample
Prowl
Mosey
Toddle
Slink
Scamper
Clomp
Lumber
Scoot

Roam
Waddle

Want

Desire
Thirst
Crave
Long for

Lust
Covet
Hunger
Pine
Yearn
Wish
Ache
Dream

(see NEED)

Wash

Clean
Bathe
Launder
Rinse
Sluice
Scrub
Lather
Shower
Cleanse
Buff
Freshen up
Scour
Shampoo
Soak
Soap
Swab

Watch

Spy
View
Witness
Monitor
Keep tabs

Spot
Detect
Attend
Follow
Regard
Scope
Scrutinize
Survey
Observe
Contemplate
Examine
Inspect
Note
Observe
Stare

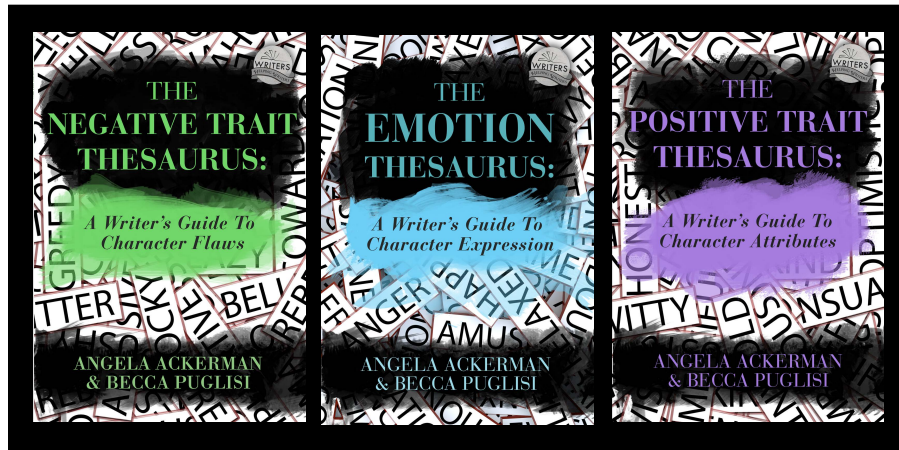
(see LOOK)

Whisper

Mutter
Murmur
Mouth
Mumble
Wheeze
Confide

Wonder

Muse
Ponder
Consider
Dwell
Debate
Mull
Study
Ruminate
Weigh
Question
Doubt
Meditate
Speculate
Puzzle
Think



PRAISE FOR THE EMOTION THESAURUS

“One of the challenges a fiction writer faces, especially when prolific, is coming up with fresh ways to describe emotions. This handy compendium fills that need. It is both a reference and a brainstorming tool, and one of the resources I'll be turning to most often as I write my own books.”

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