

Grammar and Style

CHOOSE EFFECTIVE WORDS

Swift underscores the shocking nature of his proposal by using disparaging **nouns** to describe the poor of Ireland, as shown in the passages below.

I am assured by our merchants that a boy or girl before twelve years old is no salable commodity . . . (lines 54–55)

. . .these children are seldom the fruits of marriage, a circumstance not much regarded by our savages . . .(lines 68–69)

Notice how Swift’s carefully chosen nouns satirize the dismissive attitude that the wealthy Protestants had toward the Catholic poor, heightening the essay’s effectiveness.

Directions: Copy the sentences below. Then rewrite them by using nouns that will give the sentences a more satirical edge.

1. Just because the world is getting warmer, there’s no reason to be concerned about global warming.

2. Just think of all the freshwater that we’ll have access to when the ice caps really start melting!

3. Species will start disappearing at an even greater rate, and then we won’t have to worry about accommodating them anymore.

4. It will be summer all of the time, and we’ll never have to be bothered by that uncomfortable season, winter.

5. We’ll be able to lounge in the sun all day.
