

Vocabulary Strategy

USING A THESAURUS

A **thesaurus**, or dictionary of synonyms, is useful for broadening the vocabulary you use in writing. Computer word-processing programs often include a brief thesaurus. Book thesauri are arranged alphabetically or by subject with an alphabetical index; in either case you are directed to longer entries organized by parts of speech. For instance, if you look up *incessant*, you might find a **main entry** like the following. You would then look under the cross-referenced **ENDLESSNESS** for a **category entry** in which you would focus on the adjectives, since *incessant* is an adjective.

MAIN ENTRY—**incessant** *adj.* interminable, timeless, unending (*See* **ENDLESSNESS**).

CATEGORY ENTRY—**endlessness** *n.*—endlessness, perpetuity, interminability, incessancy, timelessness, continuity, limitlessness, infinity, eternity, immortality; *v.*—perpetuate, preserve, continue, eternize;

adj.—endless, perpetual, ceaseless, interminable, incessant, timeless, unceasing, undying, unending, unremitting, continual, continuous, limitless, unlimited, infinite, eternal, immortal.

Directions: Use a thesaurus to help you rewrite these sentences with more interesting vocabulary. For each sentence, replace the boldfaced word with a synonym that you found in the thesaurus, and also provide at least one more synonym that you considered using.

1. The dinner was great, but the dessert was **excellent**.

2. When they saw the actor in person, they were surprised he was so **small**.

3. She would have bought the picture if the frame had not been **broken**.

4. The party was so **loud**, that inevitably the neighbors called to complain.

5. The students thought it was **excessive** that their graded papers had to be rewritten.

6. Management was upset that the guests had left the hotel room in such **bad** condition.

7. Josh was **angry** when he got to the concert and realized he had forgotten his ticket.
