

A focused set of adjective upgrades

Here's a **focused set of adjective upgrades** to help your students replace bland, overused words with **more precise and expressive vocabulary** — perfect for high-level writing.

Adjective Upgrades: From Basic to Brilliant

(With Finnish translations)

These comparisons show how to **level up** descriptions in writing — especially useful for **academic compositions, opinion pieces, and creative tasks**.

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Good	Decent / Acceptable	Excellent / Impressive / Outstanding	hyvä / erinomainen
Bad	Poor / Weak	Terrible / Dreadful / Inadequate	huono / kehnó
Nice	Pleasant / Enjoyable	Delightful / Appealing / Charming	mukava / viehättävä
Mean	Unkind / Rude	Cruel / Hostile / Malicious	ilkeä / vihamielinen
Big	Large / Considerable	Massive / Enormous / Substantial	iso / valtava
Small	Tiny / Little	Minute / Minimal / Insignificant	pieni / vähäinen
Easy	Simple / Straightforward	Effortless / Manageable / Undemanding	helppo / vaivaton
Hard	Difficult / Challenging	Demanding / Complex / Arduous	vaikea / haastava
Happy	Glad / Content	Delighted / Joyful / Overjoyed	onnellinen / iloinen
Sad	Unhappy / Upset	Depressed / Heartbroken / Miserable	surullinen / murheellinen
Interesting	Engaging / Fascinating	Captivating / Intriguing / Thought-provoking	mielenkiintoinen / kiehtova
Boring	Uninteresting / Dull	Monotonous / Mind-numbing / Tedious	tylsä / pitkäväteinen
Smart	Clever / Bright	Intelligent / Insightful / Sharp	fiksu / älykäs
Stupid	Silly / Foolish	Ignorant / Uninformed / Ridiculous	tyhmä / tietämätön
Fast	Quick / Rapid	Swift / Speedy / Immediate	nopea / ripeä



Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Slow	Sluggish / Leisurely	Delayed / Gradual / Cumbersome	hidas / verkkaisa
Tired	Sleepy / Weary	Exhausted / Drained / Fatigued	väsynyt / uupunut
Important	Significant / Relevant	Crucial / Vital / Essential	tärkeä / olennainen
Cool	Nice / Fun	Impressive / Stylish / Admirable	siisti / vaikuttava
Fun	Enjoyable / Entertaining	Thrilling / Exhilarating / Memorable	hauska / viihdyttävä



Adjective Upgrades – Batch 2: From Casual to Compelling

(With Finnish translations)

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Hot	Warm / Heated	Scorching / Boiling / Sweltering	kuuma / paahtava
Cold	Cool / Chilly	Freezing / Icy / Frosty	kylmä / jäätävä
Hungry	Pecky / Starving	Ravenous / Famished	nälkäinen / nälkiintynyt
Nice (person)	Kind / Friendly	Gracious / Considerate / Compassionate	mukava / ystävällinen
Angry	Mad / Upset	Furious / Enraged / Outraged	vihainen / raivostunut
Scary	Creepy / Spooky	Terrifying / Frightening / Horrific	pelottava / kauhistuttava
Pretty	Cute / Attractive	Gorgeous / Stunning / Breathtaking	nätti / upea
Ugly	Plain / Unpleasant	Hideous / Repulsive / Grotesque	ruma / vastenmielinen
Tasty	Yummy / Flavourful	Delicious / Mouth-watering / Savoury	maukas / herkullinen
Dirty	Messy / Untidy	Filthy / Grimy / Contaminated	likainen / sotkuinen
Clean	Neat / Tidy	Spotless / Pristine / Sterile	puhdas / tahraton
Rich	Wealthy / Well-off	Affluent / Prosperous / Loaded (infml.)	rikas / varakas
Poor	Broke / Needy	Impoverished / Destitute / Underprivileged	köyhä / vähävarainen
Strong	Tough / Firm	Powerful / Resilient / Sturdy	vahva / kestävä

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Weak	Fragile / Feeble	Vulnerable / Frail / Powerless	heikko / hauras
Old	Aged / Elderly	Ancient / Timeworn / Vintage	vanha / iäkäs
Young	Youthful / Junior	Adolescent / Inexperienced	nuori / nuorekas
Toxic (literal or figurative)	Bad / Harmful	Destructive / Poisonous / Damaging	myrkyllinen / vahingollinen
Helpful	Kind / Supportive	Valuable / Insightful / Instrumental	avulias / hyödyllinen
Hard-working	Busy / Productive	Diligent / Industrious / Committed	ahkera / työteliäs

Adjective Upgrades – Batch 3: From Simple to Sophisticated

(With Finnish translations)

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Easy (task)	Simple / Straightforward	Effortless / Uncomplicated / Painless	helppo / vaivaton
Difficult	Hard / Challenging	Complex / Demanding / Gruelling	vaikea / haastava
Funny	Amusing / Entertaining	Hilarious / Comical / Side-splitting	hauska / hulvaton
Annoying	Irritating / Bothersome	Infuriating / Maddening / Exasperating	ärsyttävä / raivostuttava
Busy	Active / Occupied	Swamped / Overloaded / Hectic	kiireinen / kuormittunut
Quiet	Silent / Calm	Serene / Peaceful / Tranquil	hiljainen / rauhallinen
Loud	Noisy / Booming	Deafening / Thunderous / Ear-splitting	kovaääninen / korvia huumaava
Popular	Well-known / Liked	Renowned / Widely celebrated / In demand	suosittu / tunnettu
Unpopular	Disliked / Ignored	Rejected / Outcast / Unfavourable	epäsuosittu / torjuttu
Wrong	Incorrect / Inappropriate	Misguided / False / Unjust	väärä / virheellinen
Right	Correct / Accurate	Valid / Justified / Well-founded	oikea / perusteltu
Kind	Nice / Caring	Compassionate / Warm-hearted / Empathetic	kiltti / myötätuntoinen



Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Cruel	Mean / Harsh	Brutal / Sadistic / Inhumane	julma / epäinhimillinen
Strong (feeling)	Intense / Deep	Overwhelming / Powerful / Consuming	voimakas / ylivoimainen
Weak (argument)	Flimsy / Thin	Unconvincing / Illogical / Incoherent	heikko / hatara
Safe	Protected / Secure	Shielded / Risk-free / Fortified	turvallinen / suojattu
Dangerous	Risky / Unsafe	Hazardous / Life-threatening / Perilous	vaarallinen / uhkaava
Cheap	Low-cost / Inexpensive	Budget / Affordable / Economical	halpa / edullinen
Expensive	Pricey / Costly	Overpriced / Luxurious / High-end	kallis / hintava
Beautiful (place)	Pretty / Scenic	Breathtaking / Picturesque / Majestic	kaunis / henkeäsalpaava

Adjective Upgrades – Batch 4: Abstract & Academic Power Words

(With Finnish translations)

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Important	Significant / Notable	Crucial / Pivotal / Essential	tärkeä / olennainen
Bad (situation)	Unpleasant / Problematic	Alarming / Dire / Devastating	huono / vakava
Good (result)	Positive / Helpful	Beneficial / Advantageous / Favourable	hyvä / hyödyllinen
Fair	Just / Balanced	Equitable / Impartial / Unbiased	oikeudenmukainen / puolueeton
Unfair	Biased / One-sided	Discriminatory / Unjust / Prejudiced	epäreilu / syrjivä
Wrong (action)	Improper / Inappropriate	Immoral / Unethical / Reprehensible	väärä / moraaliton
Right (action)	Honest / Proper	Ethical / Righteous / Honourable	oikea / eettinen
Clear (explanation)	Understandable / Simple	Coherent / Transparent / Articulate	selkeä / ymmärrettävä

Everyday Adjective	Better / More Precise	Advanced / Vivid	Finnish
Confusing	Unclear / Complicated	Ambiguous / Convoluted / Incoherent	hämmentävä / sekava
Big (change)	Large / Major	Dramatic / Transformational / Groundbreaking	suuri / mullistava
Small (effect)	Minor / Slight	Insignificant / Marginal / Negligible	pieni / vähäinen
Old-fashioned	Traditional / Outdated	Obsolete / Archaic / Antiquated	vanhanaikainen / vanhentunut
New	Modern / Recent	Innovative / Cutting-edge / Revolutionary	uusi / innovatiivinen
Dangerous (trend)	Harmful / Worrying	Destructive / Catastrophic / Irreversible	vaarallinen / tuhoisa
Helpful (idea)	Useful / Constructive	Insightful / Enlightening / Instrumental	hyödyllinen / rakentava
Strong (opinion)	Firm / Confident	Unshakable / Deep-rooted / Resolute	vahva / horjumaton
Weak (policy)	Ineffective / Poor	Inadequate / Flawed / Counterproductive	heikko / epäonnistunut
Popular (view)	Common / Widely held	Mainstream / Prevailing / Dominant	suosittu / vallitseva
Unpopular	Uncommon / Ignored	Marginal / Discredited / Controversial	epäsuosittu / kiistanalainen
Simple (idea)	Basic / Straightforward	Simplistic / Overgeneralised / Naïve	yksinkertainen / naiivi

Here's a **sentence-rewriting activity** focused on **improving adjectives** from generic to more precise and advanced vocabulary, using adjectives from **all four batches** you now have.



Sentence-Rewriting Activity: Upgrade the Adjectives

Rewrite each bland sentence by replacing the underlined adjective with a better or advanced alternative from the lists above.

1. The report gave a good summary of the problem.

Rewrite:

The report gave a _____ summary of the problem.

2. The weather was bad during the whole trip.

Rewrite:

The weather was _____ during the whole trip.

3. She had a happy smile on her face.

Rewrite:

She had a _____ smile on her face.

4. This solution is simple but effective.

Rewrite:

This solution is _____ but effective.

5. His argument was weak and easy to refute.

Rewrite:

His argument was _____ and easy to refute.

6. The instructions were clear and easy to follow.

Rewrite:

The instructions were _____ and easy to follow.

7. The city experienced a big change in the last decade.

Rewrite:

The city experienced a _____ change in the last decade.

8. The new policy is important for environmental protection.

Rewrite:

The new policy is _____ for environmental protection.

9. The movie was funny, and everyone laughed a lot.

Rewrite:

The movie was _____, and everyone laughed a lot.

10. The team was busy preparing for the competition.

Rewrite:

The team was _____ preparing for the competition.

11. The speaker gave a good and interesting presentation.

Rewrite:

The speaker gave a _____ and _____ presentation.

12. The old factory was dirty and smelled terrible.

Rewrite:

The old factory was _____ and smelled terrible.

13. The solution to the problem was easy to understand.

Rewrite:

The solution to the problem was _____ to understand.

14. The policy has been unpopular with many citizens.

Rewrite:

The policy has been _____ with many citizens.

15. The effects of climate change are dangerous and growing.

Rewrite:

The effects of climate change are _____ and growing.

KEY: Suggested Upgrades

1. **good** → beneficial / favourable / advantageous
2. **bad** → problematic / alarming / dire
3. **happy** → delighted / joyful / overjoyed
4. **simple** → straightforward / uncomplicated / effortless
5. **weak** → flimsy / unconvincing / inadequate
6. **clear** → coherent / transparent / articulate
7. **big** → dramatic / transformational / groundbreaking
8. **important** → crucial / pivotal / essential
9. **funny** → hilarious / comical / side-splitting
10. **busy** → swamped / overloaded / hectic
11. **good** and **interesting** → insightful and captivating / engaging
12. **dirty** → filthy / grimy / contaminated
13. **easy** → effortless / manageable / painless
14. **unpopular** → discredited / marginal / controversial
15. **dangerous** → catastrophic / destructive / irreversible