Overused words

Some words, such as ‘said’, ‘nice’, or ‘good’ are often overused. There are more precise, accurate, and descriptive words to use rather than repeating the same word.

**GETTING STARTED**

a) Tick the sentence you think is more descriptive.

“What a fantastic hat!” said Miss Morgan. “I wish I had one like that,” she said. [ ]

“What a fantastic hat!” exclaimed the teacher. “I wish I had one like that,” she added. [ ]

b) Fill in the gaps in the following sentences, choosing the most suitable word from below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>groaned</th>
<th>instructed</th>
<th>announced</th>
<th>explained</th>
<th>requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stuttered</td>
<td>whispered</td>
<td>cried</td>
<td>pleaded</td>
<td>croaked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ‘Stop talking in the library,’ _______________ Alison.
2. ‘Don’t catch the bus home on your own,’____________________ my mum.
3. ‘I’m starving,’ _____________ the giant.
4. ‘The rabbits have escaped into your garden,’ _____________ Anna.
5. ‘You should always wear a gum shield when you play hockey,’ _____________ the coach.
6. ‘Please, please, please may I have another piece?’ _____________ Philip.
7. ‘I’m too scared, I can’t do it!’ _________ Jo from the top of the diving board.
8. ‘The d-dog, no, the c-cat, ate my essay,’ _____________ the small boy.
9. ‘Can I see your boarding pass?’ _____________ the steward.
10. ‘The doctor signed me off school for a week,’ _____________ Zygmunt.

**MOVING ON**

Tick the sentence you think is more effective.

The weather is nice, and the food is nice. [ ] The weather is mild and the food is delicious. [ ]

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences, choosing the most suitable word from below.

1. They said they had a very _______________ evening at the opera.
2. The film star looked _______________ in real life.
3. Ben is very _______________, he has a lot of mates.
4. The hotel is _______________.
5. They say he is _______________ because he has such good manners.
6. The ice cream I had last night at the cinema tasted _______________.
7. The weather was _______________ and it didn’t rain all week.
8. The little dog is so _______________, always jumping up and wagging its tail.

Use each word only once.

How many did you get right? 5 = novice 10 = expert 15 = maestro

You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.