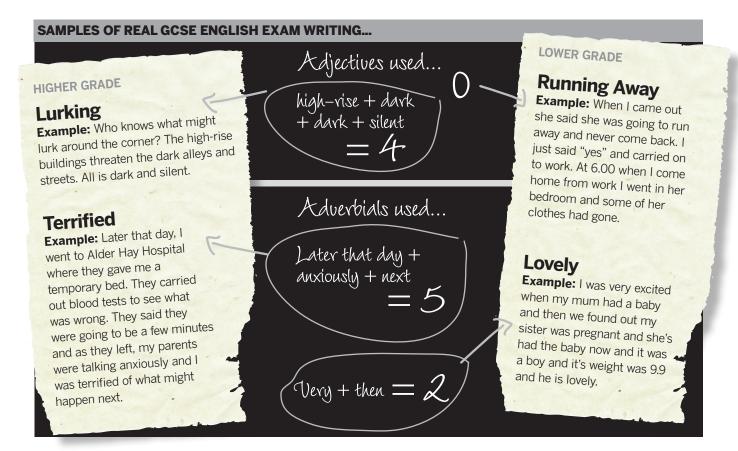
# Word power

Raise your game with better vocabulary. Here's how...

It's obvious that if you use better vocabulary you're more likely to get a higher grade. The question is, how? No need to swallow a dictionary: we quote findings from official research to show how small changes can make a big difference.



#### **DESCRIPTIVE DETAIL**

Higher-grade answers use more words to layer up the descriptive detail.

In **Terrified** the writer describes an emotional response to an event, using the precise adjective "terrified". Compare this with the much blander choice the writer of **Lovely** makes with "lovely". The higher-grade writer of

**Terrified** mentions lots of details: "Alder Hay Hospital", "bed", "blood tests", "minutes" and "parents". Compare this with the narrow range of detail in **Lovely**: "mum", "baby" (twice), "sister", "boy" and weight.

#### **ACTION**

Lower-grade writing doesn't give much

detail about how or when or where the action happens. In **Running Away** the only extra how-when-where detail we get is the thinly descriptive "just". In **Lovely** all we get is a bland "very" and a vague "then". Contrast that with **Terrified**, where we can feel the nerves in "anxiously" and know precisely when with "later that day" and "next".

### REVISION IN MINUTES



**5** minutes

Turn the lower-grade writing shown here into higher-grade writing, using a better variety of nouns and verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

13 minutes

Have a go at the adverbs and adjectives word games on the BBC Skillswise site; you'll find a link at www.gcseresult.co.uk



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