

45 ways to avoid using the word 'very'

Substitute 'damn' every time you're inclined to write 'very;' your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be. ~Mark Twain

'Very' is the most useless word in the English language and can always come out. More than useless, it is treacherous because it invariably weakens what it is intended to strengthen. ~Florence King

So avoid using the word 'very' because it's lazy. A man is not very tired, he is exhausted. Don't use very sad, use morose. Language was invented for one reason, boys — to woo women — and, in that endeavor, laziness will not do. It also won't do in your essays. ~N.H. Kleinbaum

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Avoid saying very:	Rather say:	Avoid saying very:	Rather say:
afraid	terrified	neat	immaculate
angry	furious	old	ancient
bad	atrocious	poor	destitute
beautiful	exquisite	pretty	beautiful
big	immense	quiet	silent
bright	dazzling	risky	perilous
capable	accomplished	roomy	spacious
clean	spotless	rude	vulgar
clever	brilliant	serious	solemn
cold	freezing	small	tiny
conventional	conservative	strong	unyielding
dirty	squalid	stupid	idiotic
dry	parched	tasty	delicious
eager	keen	thin	gaunt
fast	quick	tired	exhausted
fierce	ferocious	ugly	hideous
good	superb	valuable	precious
happy	jubilant	weak	feeble
hot	scalding	wet	soaked
hungry	ravenous	wicked	villainous
large	colossal	wise	sagacious
lively	vivacious	worried	anxious
loved	adored		

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