

Said is Dead

added
advised
allowed
barked
babbled
begged
blurted
cajoled
complained
confessed
confided
demanded
dithered
droned
gasped
groaned
howled
interjected
interrupted
jabbed
jeered
leered
lauded

moaned
mumbled
objected
parroted
pronounced
protested
quipped
reported
scolded
scoffed
simpered
snapped
swore
stuttered
taunted
teased
wailed
whimpered
yammered
yelled
yapped

adapted from a similar list in *The
Writer's Workout Book* by Art
Peterson (National Writing Project
1997)

Use synonyms for *said* only when another word fits the meaning better. Synonyms like *laughed*, *smile*, *chuckled*, and *roared* help convey a person's good humor; and words like *added*, *went on*, or *explained* help serve as transitional devices. Avoid using any synonyms, however, simply to keep from using *said*.

amused	addressed	advocated			
acknowledged	admitted	affirmed			
acquiesced	admonished	agreed			
added	advised	alleged			
		allowed	determined	mused	
		alluded	dictated	muttered	
		announced	directed	narrated	
		answered	disclosed	noted	
		apologized	discussed	notified	
		approved	disrupted	objected	
		argued	divulged	observed	
		asked	drawled	offered	
		assented	droned	ordered	
		asserted	elaborated	persisted	
		assumed	emphasized	persuaded	
		assured	enjoined	petitioned	
		avowed	entreated	pleaded	
		bantered	enumerated	pled	
		bargained	enunciated	pledged	
		began	estimated	pointed out	
		begged	exaggerated	pondered	
		belittled	exclaimed	praised	
		berated	explained	predicted	
		beseched	exploded	prodged	
		boasted	exposed	professed	
		bragged	expounded	promised	
		broke in	expressed	prompted	
		brought forth	faltered	pronounced	ruled
		called	feared	prophesized	spoke
		cautioned	foretold	proposed	stammered
		challenged	frowned	protested	stated
		charged	fumed	proved	stipulated
		cheered	gaspd	publicized	stressed
		chided	granted	queried	shouted
		chortled	groaned	questioned	shrieked
		chuckled	guessed	quibbled	shrugged
		cited	hastened to add	quipped	sighed
		claimed	hastened to say	quoted	snapped
		coaxed	hedged	rambled	specified
		commanded	hesitated	reaffirmed	speculated
		commented	hinted	reasoned	
		complained	imparted	reassured	
		conceded	implied	recalled	
		concluded	implored	reciprocated	urged
		concurrent	indicated	recited	uttered
		confessed	inferred	recommended	ventured
		confided	informed	recounted	volunteered
		confirmed	inquired	referred	vowed
		consented	insinuated	refuted	warned
		contended	insisted	regretted	wavered
		contested	instructed	reiterated	went on
		continued	interjected	rejoiced	wept
		contradicted	interrogated	rejoined	whispered
		contributed	interrupted	related	wondered
		counseled	intimidated	relented	yelled
		countered	itemized	remarked	
		cried	jeered	remembered	
		criticized	jested	reminded	
		cursed	joked	remonstrated	
		debated	judged	repeated	
		decided	lamented	replied	
		declared	laughed	reported	
		decreed	lectured	reprimanded	
		defended	made known	requested	
		demanded	maintained	responded	
		denied	mentioned	restated	
		denounced	mumbled	resumed	
		described	murmured	revealed	