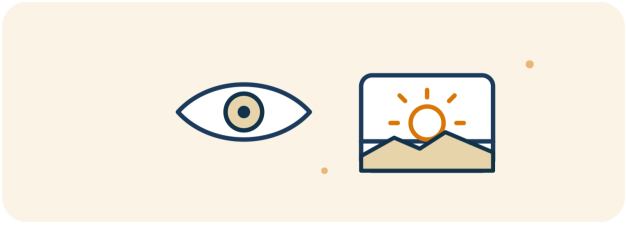
The Show Don't Tell Pack

The one-line fix that turns a flat creative into a Band 6 one



HSC ENGLISH

"Show, don't tell" is the most common piece of Module C creative feedback and the least explained. Telling names the emotion straight out. Showing deletes the emotion word and writes the physical tell, so the reader feels it by putting the pieces together themselves.

01 The swap

Turn telling into showing

- **Find** any sentence that names a feeling: nervous, sad, angry, relieved.
- **Delete** the feeling word.
- **Write** what the body, or the world around them, does instead.

02 A bank of swaps

- **Telling:** She was nervous. **Showing:** She read the same line three times and still could not tell you what it said.
- **Telling:** He was devastated. **Showing:** He kept setting the table for two.
- **Telling:** The room was tense. **Showing:** Nobody reached for the salt.
- **Telling:** She was proud of him. **Showing:** She had already told the neighbours before he was through the door.

Notice the showing version never names the feeling, and it lands harder for it.

03 Checklist

- I have hunted the draft for every sentence that names a feeling.
- Each one is now a physical action or a detail in the world.
- I trust the reader to assemble the feeling. I do not name it as well.
- The strongest image is doing the emotional work, not an adjective.

Watch out. Naming the feeling and then describing it, so you get both. Pick the detail and cut the label. The physical image alone is stronger, and the marker can see you trust the reader.

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