

# 6 Powerful Words!



Many students have difficulty really understanding “school words” because they do not hear them used in everyday conversations.

The goal of this quick guide is to introduce families to six of these important words and offer suggestions to increase your child’s skills with these words by incorporating them into everyday conversations in “the real world”

These words were selected from the “12 Powerful Words” list created by Larry Bell. The six words introduced in this resource are words commonly used in elementary schools. Larry Bell’s website is: <http://www.larry-bell.com/>

## 6 Powerful Words to Help Families Build Comprehension



### Compare

**Tell about all the ways things are alike**

Ways you can practice comparing as a family:

- Compare two items in the grocery cart.
- Compare the ways your child is like his or her cousin.
- Compare a bicycle and a motorcycle. Then compare other vehicles.
- Think of all the ways your family members are alike.
- Compare slippers and tennis shoes. Then compare other things we wear on our feet.



### Contrast

**Tell about all the ways things are different**

Ways you can practice contrasting as a family:

- List the ways that your pets are different.
- Contrast your family's two favorite meals.
- Contrast your home with the homes where animals live.
- Talk about different super heroes and contrast their super powers.
- Contrast the four seasons. Talk about what your family does in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

### Predict

**Use what you know to decide what will most likely happen next**

Ways you can practice predicting as a family:

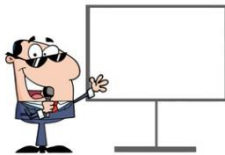
- Predict who will win the next Thunder game.
- Predict which of your family members will wake up first in the morning.
- Stop part way through a movie or book and predict how it will end.
- Predict how long it will take you to drive or walk to school from your house. Then predict the time to get to other places you often visit.
- Predict how your pet will act when you get home.

### Summarize

**Give the short version- include all of the important information**

Ways you can practice summarizing as a family:

- Retell a sports event. Use beginning, middle, & end.
- Summarize the TV show you just watched.
- Summarize a situation by describing the problem and then the solution.
- Summarize a recent family trip or weekend activity.
- Ask your child to summarize the most important parts of their week in just three sentences.



### Describe

**Provide detailed information about something**

Ways you can practice describing as a family:

- Think of as many words as you can to describe your family's vehicle.
- Describe a movie character and see if your family can guess who it is.
- Describe your neighborhood and the people who live there.
- Try to use 10 different words to describe a character in a book you read together.
- Pick a wild animal. Use as many words as you can to tell about how it looks and acts.

### Infer

**Look for clues to help you read between the lines**



Ways you can practice inferring as a family:

- Watch strangers in a restaurant. Ask your child to infer how the people are related to one another.
- Talk with your child about the shopping list and ask them to infer what you will cook for dinner.
- Pick any person, place, or thing. Play "Where am I?" and "Who am I?" games by giving each other clues and making inferences.
- Before you leave home, tell your child what you are taking, or what you will bring home, and ask them to infer where you are going.
- Describe things your kids might do around the house. Ask them to infer how that would make you feel. For example, if they cleaned their room without being told- you would be happy because you like it when their room is clean.