

"DIFFERENT WAYS TO..."

When you write a story, you want to express feeling and emotion, as well as character, in different ways.

Instead of saying: "She was angry at him", you can write "She glared at him and then snapped 'Stop this immediately!'", for example.

Here are expressions which will enrich your vocabulary and help you write more lively stories.

Different ways to see & look

- to look at = regarder
- to look for = chercher
- to look away (from...) = détourner le regard (de...)
- to look through = parcourir
- to make out sthg = discerner qdq chose
- to catch a glimpse of = entrevoir
- to peep at = regarder furtivement
- to peer at = scruter du regard
- to gaze at = contempler (admirer)
- to stare at = regarder fixement
- to glare at = lancer un regard furieux à
(ATTENTION : the sun was glaring = le soleil brillait avec éclat / était éblouissant)
- to blink = cligner des yeux
- to wink = faire un clin d'œil
- 'His eyes were sparkling / twinkling' = ses yeux scintillaient (joie, amour...)
- 'His vision was blurred (= *troublée*) (as tears were rolling down his cheeks)'

Different ways to talk

- in a high-pitched voice = d'une voix aiguë
- in a low-pitched voice = d'une voix grave
- in a (threatening, ironic, angry...) tone/voice = d'une voix / d'un ton (menaçant, ironique, fâché/vibrant de colère...)
- to speak = parler (d'une voix neutre)
- to talk = parler pour donner de l'information
- to hesitate → *He hesitated before answering my question.*
- to whisper = chuchoter
- to hiss = siffler (colère, mépris) → '*Get out!*' she hissed at me *furiously.*

- to mumble = marmonner, manger ses mots (volontaire pour être discret, ou exprimant une gêne)
- to mutter = idem, mais discours mieux articulé
- to murmur = parler doucement, murmurer
- to hum = fredonner
- to grunt = grommeler, grogner → *She grunted a few words and left the table. / "No", he grunted.*
- to stammer / to stutter = bégayer → *'P-p-please give me the p-pen,' he stammered.*
- to quaver = trembler (nervosité, colère, peur, vive émotion) → *Her voice quavered for a moment but then she regained control.*
- to babble / to gabble = parler en continu, débiter des paroles (plus ou moins sensées)
- to ramble = parler sans relâche et sans logique
- to slur = mal articuler → *He was so drunk that he slurred to the bartender for more.*
- to chat = bavarder, parler de façon informelle et amicale
- to chatter = jacasser (bavarder)
- to gossip = cancaner, faire des commérages
- to call = appeler → *They called for help.*
- to shout = speak in a loud voice, in anger or to get attention.
- to whoop = crier de joie → *The children whooped when we entered the fair.*
- to cry out = pousser un cri, s'écrier → *She cried out in terror when the old man appeared suddenly. / She cried out with joy.*
- to yell = hurler
- to scream = idem, en plus aigu
- to shriek = pousser un hurlement, un cri (plus aigu encore) (surprise, peur, joie)
Expression : to shriek with laughter.
- to bellow = beugler (voix grave) → *The captain bellowed orders at the crew.*
- to whine = geindre, gémir
- to chirp / chirrup (GB): parler d'une voix légère et gaie → *'All finished!' she chirped.*
- to cheer = acclamer, applaudir → *The public cheered when the team appeared.*
- to croak = parler d'une voix rauque OU parler en étouffant un sanglot
- to blurt out = lâcher, laisser échapper → *She blurted out the bad news before I could stop her.*
- to snap = parler d'un ton brusque (impatience, mépris, colère) → *'What do you want?' the waiter snapped.*
- to bark (out) at someone = aboyer → *'What do you want?' the shop assistant barked. (ton plus agressif que "snap")*
- to be speechless / dumbfounded = être sans voix

Different ways to walk & move

- to go = aller
- to go in = entrer / to go out = sortir / to go down = descendre) to go up = monter
- to come = venir / to come back = revenir / to come in = entrer
- to come and go = aller et venir
- to come to a halt = s'arrêter
- to come nearer = s'approcher
- the gait = la démarche
- at every step = à chaque pas
- to pace up and down = faire les cent pas
- to quicken / slacken the pace = presser / ralentir le pas, l'allure
- to dash away = partir à toute allure
- to plod along = avancer d'un pas lourd
- to trudge = marcher péniblement
- to stroll = marcher en flânant
- to wander = marcher sans but, errer
- to prowl = rôder
- to loiter = traîner
- to roam = errer, rôder
- to linger = s'attarder
- to strut = marcher en se pavanant (fierté)
- to reel, totter, sway = tituber, chanceler, vaciller
- to stumble = trébucher
- to collapse = s'effondrer
- to hop = sautiller
- to spring, to leap = bondir
- to leap to one's feet = se lever d'un bond → *He leapt to his feet.*
- to crawl = ramper
- to bend over = se pencher
- to lean on = s'appuyer sur
- to crouch = s'accroupir
- to shrug one's shoulders = hausser les épaules → *She shrugged her shoulders (because she really didn't know what to say).*
- to shake hands with SO = serrer la main de quelqu'un → *I shook hands with her.*
- to nod = faire "oui" de la tête
- to shake one's head = faire "non" de la tête

Different ways to laugh & smile

- to laugh = rire
- to chuckle = glousser
- to giggle = rire sottement, glousser
- to titter = rire de façon moqueuse, peu sympathique
- to snicker (US), to snigger (GB) = ricaner, pouffer de rire en se moquant
- to roar, howl, shriek with laughter = hurler de rire
- to burst into laughter = éclater de rire
- to chortle = rire de façon discrète et amusée, glousser de plaisir
- to jeer at SO = rire de façon méprisante, insultante
- to beam = sourire d'un air radieux (grand plaisir)
- to grin = avoir, afficher un large sourire (fierté, grand plaisir)
- to smirk = sourire d'un air satisfait, narquois, suffisant
- to sneer = afficher un air méprisant
- to laugh under one's breath = rire sous cape → *Stop laughing under your breath!*

Different ways to cry

- to weep = verser des larmes (discret)
- to sob = sangloter
- to snivel = pleurnicher, pleurer en reniflant
- to blubber = * pleurer comme un veau (** chialer)
- to wail = pleurer en poussant des gémissements
- to bawl = brailler
- to burst into tears = éclater en sanglots

Different ways to breathe (breath_ = le souffle)

- to be breathless = être essoufflé, hors d'haleine (après exercice physique)
- to choke = s'étouffer
- to fight/struggle for breath = lutter pour reprendre son souffle
- to gasp for breath = haleter
- to sigh = soupirer, pousser un soupir → *He sighed with relief = Il poussa un soupir de soulagement.*
- to take a deep breath = respirer à fond → *Relax, take a deep breath, and tell me all about it.*