

ANSWER KEY

Step 1

Read each sentence carefully, noticing the clarity and precision of each. Write 2–3 observations about clarity, precision, and tone.

1. *This website has a lot of good information and can help people with things.*

- Uses vague words like “good information” and “things”
- Lacks detail
- Hard to understand exact meaning
- Low credibility

2. *This website provides clear explanations about online safety and includes examples of how to protect personal information.*

- Specific and clear
- Explains exactly what is happening
- Uses precise vocabulary
- More trustworthy

3. *Experts agree that this is the best solution for students.*

- “Experts” is vague and not identified
- No evidence or source
- Sounds confident but unclear
- May be misleading

4. *Some educators suggest that limiting screen time may improve focus, but results can vary depending on the student.*

- Uses balanced and cautious language

Beyond Words: An Educator's Guide to Teaching English Language to English Language Learners in French-Language Schools – Grammar Activity

- Acknowledges that results may vary
- More credible because it avoids overgeneralization

Teacher Note

Strong student responses should:

- identify vague vs precise language
- comment on tone (certainty vs caution)
- connect clarity to trust and credibility

Step 2

Compare these sentences by reading both versions and answering the questions below.

Example 1 Version A	Example 1 Version B
<i>This is very important and affects many things.</i>	<i>This issue affects students' privacy by collecting personal data without consent.</i>

Which version is clearer? Why?

Clearer: Version B

Why:

- Specific details
- Clear explanation

What makes the other version less effective?

Less effective version:

- Too general
- Lacks meaning

Example 2 Version A	Example 2 Version B
<i>Many experts say this is one of the best ways to stay healthy.</i>	<i>Some studies suggest that staying hydrated may support overall health, but more evidence is needed.</i>

Which version sounds more trustworthy? Why?

More trustworthy: Version B

Why:

- Balanced tone
- Acknowledges uncertainty

What clue makes you question one of the versions?

Clue:

- “Many experts” is vague and unsupported

Step 3

Revise for clarity and credibility by rewriting the sentence below to make it more:

- clear
- precise
- appropriate for a school audience

Original Sentence

People should be careful about information online because it can cause problems.

Revised Version

People should verify online information by checking reliable sources, because misleading content can spread false information.

Step 4

Apply the learning from the above steps to your own writing. Return to a short response you wrote earlier in this unit.

1. First, find a vague word or sentence that could be clearer
2. Then, rewrite it to improve clarity and precision.

Revised Version

Strong responses will:

- replace vague words
- improve clarity
- use more precise vocabulary

Step 5

Justify your choice, and in 2–3 sentences, explain how your revision improves clarity, precision, or credibility.

Strong responses will:

- explain how clarity improved
- mention precision or tone
- connect to trust or credibility