

The words **thing** or **things** are rather vague and uninteresting. Try to use more specific words instead, especially in your writing. Some suggestions for alternatives are listed below.

device

apparatus
contrivance
gadget

implement
instrument
machine

mechanism
tool

an act or duty

action
deed

feat
problem

responsibility
task

a situation or something that happens

affair
circumstance
event

eventuality
incident
occurrence

phenomenon
proceeding

a specific thing

article
body
creature

entity
item

object
substance

a detail or part of something

aspect
characteristic

factor
feature

particular
point

idea

concept

fact

thought



gear

baggage

clothes

possessions

belongings

odds and ends

stuff

bits and pieces

The following passage shows how some of the synonyms listed opposite might be used instead of repeating **thing**.

“

“On our first night camping, I heard this ^{*creature*} ~~thing~~ breathing,” said Peter. “I was petrified. Des decided that the only sensible ^{*approach*} ~~thing~~ was to look outside the tent to see what it was. When he told me it was only a cow I couldn’t believe it!”

“Still, we had a good holiday, and the new cooking ^{*apparatus*} ~~things~~ worked well. The best ^{*aspect*} ~~thing~~ was the peace and quiet in the countryside. And after the ^{*incident*} ~~thing~~ with the cow, the only other exciting ^{*event*} ~~thing~~ was the flood on the last night. The biggest ^{*problem*} ~~thing~~ we discovered was that the tent wasn’t waterproof, and all our ^{*belongings*} ~~things~~ got soaked!”

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