WORD BASICS - Verbs

*Verbs bring life to our lives. They express the actions we take, the thoughts we think, our feelings and emotions. Verbs connect us with the people and the world around us. Without verbs, Life is lifeless. Below are some tidbits about verbs that often cause confusion because of misunderstanding or desensitization due to constant misuse.*

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| Reflexive vs. Non-reflexive Verbs | Verbs that Often Are Confused | Verbs that Add Pizzazz |
| A true Reflexive Verb, by nature, implies that the object of the sentence is simultaneously the subject, as in to perjure (oneself) since no one else can perjure you. Remember this to avoid redundancy - *I committed perjury* rather than *I perjured myself*.  In a less formal sense, it is possible to make other verbs reflexive by adding *self* to the end of the subject's pronoun, as in *I hurt myself hammering the nail when I hit my thumb.*  Please eliminate the sentence *You can contact Mark or myself if you have any questions* (and all its variations) from your repertoire, as it is incorrect and projects and uneducated, unprofessional image of the user. The correct way to express this sentiment is *You may contact Mark or me ...* | * **Allude** (to insinuate) and **Refer** (to directly mention) * **Appraise** (to determine worth) and **Apprise** (to notify) * **Blanch** (to become pale) and **Blench** (to flinch) * **Careen** (to veer or tip to one side) and **Career** (to proceed at full speed) * **Deprecate** (to express disapproval of) and **Depreciate** (to belittle or lower the worth of) * **Enervate** (to cause to lose vitality) and **Energize** (to invigorate) * **Flaunt** (to show off or display proudly) and **Flout** (to disobey openly, to scorn) | * Assuage (uh-SWAYJ) - to soothe, satisfy, or appease * Cavil (KAV-ul) - to raise petty objections * Educe (ee-DOOS) - to bring out or develop * Impugn (im-PYOON) - to express doubts about the truth or honesty of |