

# Creative Use of English

## Showing Not Telling

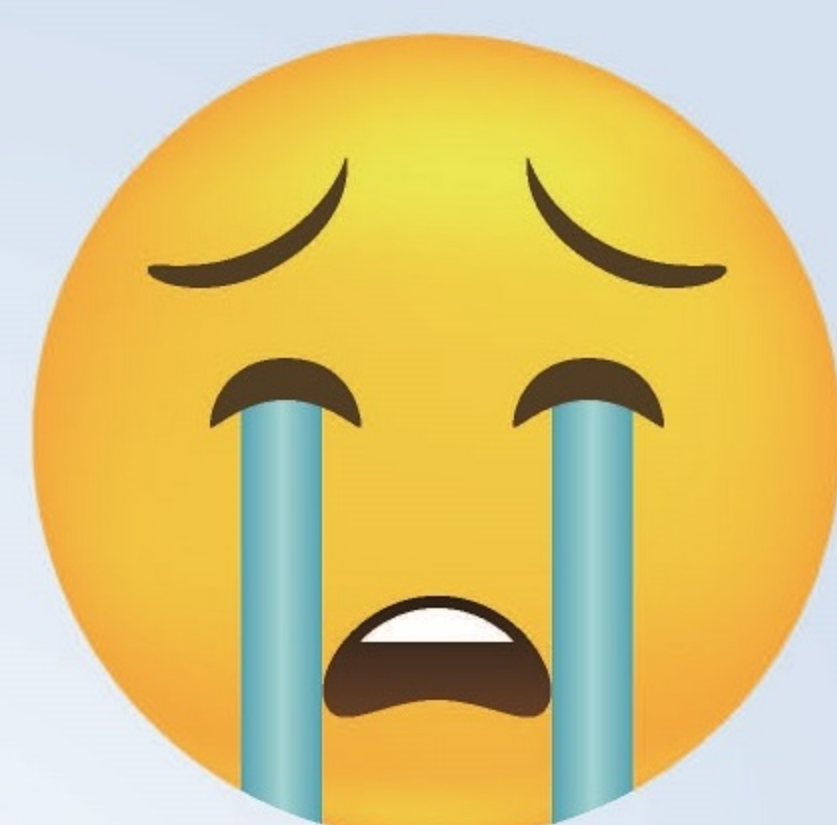
Instead of telling readers directly the characters' feelings, show them through their actions.

**EXCITED/  
HAPPY**



- My heart was pounding.
- I raised my eyebrows.
- I hummed a tune.
- I walked with bouncy steps.
- I squealed with delight.

**SAD/  
UPSET**



- Tears gathered in my eyes.
- My lips were trembling.
- I hung my head.
- I pulled a long face.
- I tossed and turned all night.

**AFRAID/  
SCARED**



- My hands were shaking.
- My face turned pale/white.
- I couldn't breathe and my mind went blank.
- I was dizzy and about to faint.
- I got goosebumps all over my body.

**ANGRY/  
IRRITATED**



- I clenched my fists/teeth.
- I grinded my teeth.
- My veins popped out.
- I slammed the door.
- I stomped my feet.

**SHOCKED/  
APPALLED**



- My mouth was wide open.
- I froze.
- I was motionless and speechless.
- I felt a shiver down my spine.
- I couldn't believe my eyes.

**NERVOUS/  
ANXIOUS**



- My heart was racing.
- I bit my nails.
- My palms got sweaty.
- My hands were quivering.
- I felt/had a lump in my throat.

**BORED/  
UNINTERESTED**



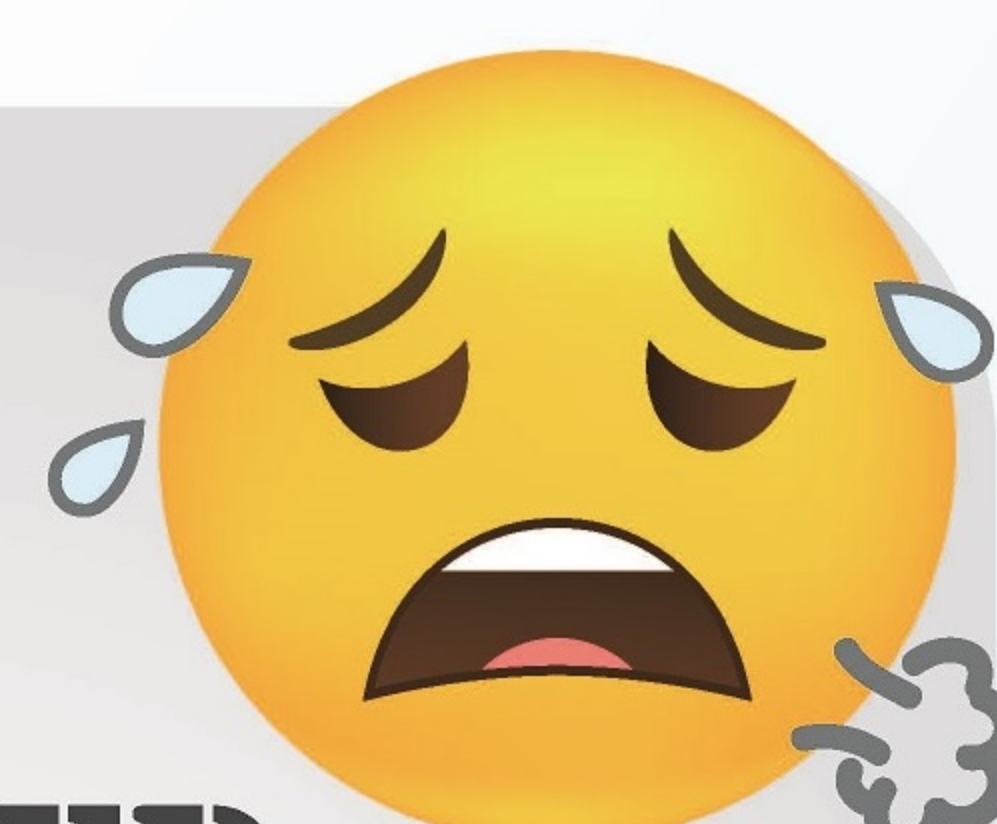
- I tapped my fingers.
- I began to fidget.
- I kept looking at my watch.
- I yawned.
- I rolled my eyes.

**EMBARRASSED/  
SHY**



- I blushed.
- I lowered my head.
- I buried my face in my hands.
- I wanted to hide.
- I avoided looking him/her in the eye.

**T'YRED/  
EXHAUSTED**



- I yawned and stretched my arms.
- My eyes were droopy.
- I rubbed my eyes.
- I nodded/dozed off.
- I slouched in the sofa.