Could You Say That Again?

Words can make or break a speech. They can help you be more descriptive, paint a clearer picture, and emphasize your points. Take a look at these five scenarios. See if you can use what you have learned to improve each person’s use of words. Explain your answers.

1. Your friend just got back from watching a movie that he was so excited to see. When you ask him how it was, he says, “Awesome!” And that’s it. Just, awesome. How could he have better explained himself?

2. Taco Bell just came out with a nacho cheese Cool Ranch Doritos taco. The commercial for this product describes it as “The greatest thing you will ever taste.” How could they use different words to be more descriptive?

3. Protesters have organized at city hall against the ban on smoking in restaurants. One of their leaders begins to talk to the crowd. “We need to fight this law,” she says. How else could she express her views?

4. A member of congress says, “Illegal aliens all speak Spanish and they take our jobs.” What is her perspective and how does her choice of words show her point of view?

5. A campus organization is trying to sell cupcakes to students. They hope to raise money for a trip over summer break. They post a sign that says, “We need money.” Unfortunately, they don’t make that much money the first day. How can they change the sign to make their efforts more successful?