

VERBS of ATTRIBUTION

(You can use these instead of "says.")

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When you write about what other people say, you might use the verb "says," as in this statement: The author *says* that only six reindeer pull Santa's sleigh. "Says" is a verb of attribution; it means that you are quoting, paraphrasing, or referring to another source. "Says" is often overused, though, which makes the writing sound repetitive or boring.

When you want to show that you are citing someone else's opinion or information, try using an attributive verb other than "says." Different verbs of attribution are included in the list below. The verb you choose could be a relatively objective verb, or it could show that you agree or disagree with the cited material. Therefore, your verb choice is important!

General verbs of attribution:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| accepts | believes | expresses | hypothesizes | offers | states |
| acknowledges | categorizes | deals with | illustrates | points out | suggests |
| addresses | challenges | decides | implies | proposes | supposes |
| adds | charges | declares | indicates | questions | thinks |
| advises | cites | defines | insists | realizes | uses |
| allows | claims | describes | interprets | reasons | utilizes |
| analyzes | comments | discusses | introduces | remarks | warns |
| answers | compares | echoes | lists | replies | wonders |
| asks | concedes | emphasizes | maintains | reports | writes |
| asserts | concludes | exclaims | mentions | responds | |
| assumes | considers | finds | notes | reveals | |
| assures | contends | grants | observes | shows | |
| argues | explains | holds | offers | speculates | |

Verbs of attribution that show agreement:

| | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| affirms | concur with | supports |
| agrees | confirms | verifies |
| concedes | echoes | |

Verbs of attribution that show disagreement:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| counters | disagrees | opposes |
| criticizes | disputes | refutes |
| denies | objects | rejects |

REMEMBER: *Be careful with your choice.*
Each verb has implied meanings, and many are not interchangeable.
Use only verbs that you understand!