“Banned Words” List

Banned Words in this class are otherwise known as “Tired Words”. Some words are so overused they are just plain boring. While it would be awkward to avoid these words all the time, you should take care to substitute more interesting words whenever appropriate.

Nouns
- a lot
- fun

Adverbs
- really
- very
- well

Verbs
- get / got
- go / went
- put / put
- run / ran
- say / said
- see / saw
- tell / told
- come / came

Adjectives
- happy
- sad
- good
- bad
- big
- small
- little
- fast
- slow

Other Annoying Phrases
- Once upon a time...
- There is...
- There was...
- There were...
- There lived....
- There anything....blah....!

Passive Verbs
- am/are
- be / being
- became / become
- is / was / were
- could / should / would
- had / has / have
- feels / felt

These passive verbs are OK to use as “helping verbs”. But they are banned for use as the main verb. Instead of using a passive verb, rewrite the sentence with a more active tone!

For example:
- The dishes are washed by Jacob. (passive)
- Jacob washes the dishes. (more active)

And:
- The students are taught by the professor. (passive)
- The professor teaches the students. (more active)