VERB POWER

Verbs are the engine of a sentence. There are several kinds of verbs available to writers.

TO BE VERBS

Avoid using to be verbs as much as possible they are simple and usually more wordy than necessary

To be verbs are: is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been

These words do not convey action so much as act as an = sign.
Ex: You are a nice dresser
    You = a nice dresser

The goal of strong verbs is to convey action instead of a state of being

Weak: The sun **was** really bright on the snow.
Strong: The sun shone brightly on the snow.

Weak: **Being** a nice person **is** a good way **to be** happy.
Stronger: Kindness leads happiness.

AVOID USING PASSIVE VOICE

Passive voice is a backward sentence that focuses too much on the recipient of the action than the doer of the action.
(note: skilled speakers and writers will sometimes use passive voice on purpose.)

Passive: Many tears were shed by all who were in attendance at the funeral.

In this example the be verb "were" comes before the subject "all" and this sentence focuses on the tears that were shed instead of all who were in attendance.

Active: Everyone at the funeral shed many tears.

AVOID UNNECESSARY HELPING VERBS

Helping verbs are verbs that are unnecessary and excessive they make the sentence wordy and clunky. They are usually to be verbs but can come in other forms.

Wordy: The day had been hot
Concise: The day was hot

Wordy: We had worked all day and had had a good time
Concise: We worked all day and had a good time