

**Tease/Tickle** --- "I think you're cute."

**Punish** --- "You're a bad person."

**Ridicule** --- make fun of clothing, etc.

**Encourage** --- "I know you can do it."

**Incite** --- "To the barricades." "I have a dream."

**Brag** --- something you are sincerely proud of

**Scrutinize** --- someone who notices every flawed detail of a person

**Sooth** --- "Everything will be all right, nothing to worry about."

**Coax** --- "Are you sure you wouldn't like to..."

**Flirt** --- "Come over here and sit next to me."

**Seduce** --- "I'm very attracted to you."

**Challenge** --- "Are you man enough?" "I bet you can't."

**Accuse** --- "You lied to me." "I saw you do it."

**Nail** --- "I know your game." "I see right through you."

**Knife** --- "You hurt me." "I want you to suffer."

**Belittle** --- "You are worthless, nothing, unimportant."

**Pry** --- "Stop asking questions!" "It's none of your business."

**Charm/Flatter/Compliment** --- "You're wonderful." "You'd be very good at it."

Capitulate to	Overwhelm	Reassure
Electrify	Inform	Appreciate
Negotiate with	Accommodate	Apologize
Pick a fight with	Fuss at	Negate
Quibble with	Praise	Greet
Take care of	Bless	Forgive
Contradict	Surrender to	Rescue
Heal	Hold	Grieve
Confide in	Touch	Lull
Attend to	Pamper	Appease
Entrust	Pacify	Placate
Soothe	Subdue	Enfold
Caress	Smother	Suffocate
Cherish	Push away	Dodge
Deflect	Fence	Fake out

### Short List of Action Verbs

#### **(With Anchoring Subtexts)**

These Action verbs are used for directing actors however, they can also be used in your screenplay, by giving characters dialogue that imply their action or feeling, without having to say it through description.

**Convince** --- "I think you should..."

**Demand** --- "I demand it."

**Beg/Plead** --- "Please help me."

**Complain** --- "It's not fair."

**Dazzle** --- "Wait till you see..."

**Stalk** --- "I'm watching you."

**Cajole** --- "Come on, sweetie..."

**Warn** --- "I'm warning you."

**Persuade** --- "Look at it this way..."

**Goad** --- "You wanna fight?"

One-up  
Engage  
Get his Goat  
Dare  
Provoke  
Prod  
Bait

Wheedle  
Goad  
Accept  
Approve  
Affirm  
Flatter  
Compliment

Revolt against  
Repulse  
Entice  
Woo  
Fondle  
Spoil  
Undress

Nuzzle  
Entertain  
Clown  
Dandle  
Amuse  
Divert  
Lighten

Humor  
Jolly  
Celebrate  
Justify self to  
Dazzle

Whine at  
Demand  
Test  
Nail  
Pounce on  
Criticize  
Undermine

Salute  
String along  
Wean from  
Guard against  
Defend against  
Grapple with  
Interfere with

Reach for  
Reminisce  
Dream  
Speculate  
Tease  
Play with  
Dote upon

Arouse  
Awaken  
Shock  
Ogle  
Hypnotize  
Challenge  
Defy

Incite  
Exhort  
Kindle  
Expound to  
Galvanize

Gripe at  
Confront  
Stalk  
Jeer at  
Taunt  
Reprove  
Steer

Beguile  
Shut out  
Battle  
Startle  
Shake up  
Expose  
Applaud

Make love  
Tickle  
Needle  
Please  
Cheer  
Relish  
Savor

Lure  
Tantalize  
Seduce  
Flirt  
Renounce  
Enflame  
Infuse

Explain to  
Clarify for  
Reason with  
Concede to  
Tolerate

## Helpful Tools for the Screenwriter

### Passive Verbs

Is Am Are Were Was Has Had Have

### Action Verbs

Accuse	Berate	Menace
Blame	Attack	Badger
Punish	Browbeat	Pressure
Bully	Persecute	Rape
Intimidate	Rag on	Castrate
Knife	Crush	Destroy
Coerce	Hammer	Suppress
Shame	Persuade	Crown
Scold	Convince	Build Up
Reprimand	Entreat	Bolster
Condemn	Beg	Boost
Torment	Plead	Empower
Confine	Bluff	Encourage
Weigh down	Upstage	Categorize
Poison	Brag	Teach
Warn	Preach	Lecture
Admonish	Instruct	Calculate
Threaten	Direct	Inspect
Harangue	Summon	Insinuate
Remind	Pry	Interrogate
Ridicule	Quiz	Order
Mock	Diagnose	Pester
Guide	Deny	Sneer at
Maneuver	Demean	disparage
Massage	Dampen	vilify
Cajole	Deflate	Nag
Coax	Discourage	Pout at
Sell	Belittle	complain to