Notice how the first example is just okay. Then notice how the context and analysis in the additional versions of each sample “flavors” the passage. Consider the words that provide flavor.

1. When Mr. Mitty drops off his wife to get her hair done, she asks him to purchase some overshoes that he does not feel he needs. To explain her point, **Mrs. Mitty told her husband, “You’re not a young man any longer,” and Mitty “raced the engine a little” (8).** Pushing down on the gas pedal shows Mitty’s frustration.

When Mr. Mitty kindly drops off his wife to get her hair done, she insists that he purchase some overshoes that he clearly does not need or want. Adding an insult to the nagging, **Mrs. Mitty told her husband, “You’re not a young man any longer,” and Mitty “raced the engine a little” (8).** Pumping the gas pedal shows Mitty’s frustration with a demanding, thoughtless wife, who refuses to listen.

When Mr. Mitty drops off his wife to get her hair done, she reminds him to purchase some overshoes. While he resists her advice, **Mrs. Mitty told her husband, “You’re not a young man any longer,” and Mitty “raced the engine a little” (8).** Pumping the gas pedal shows Mitty’s childish reaction to a wife, who obviously cares about his health.

2. As Mitty snaps out of another daydream, he finds himself in the wrong lane of a parking lot. The attendant shouts, **“Back it up, Mac! Look out for that Buick!” (9).** Apparently, Mitty’s daydream could have caused an accident.

As Mitty snaps out of another daydream, he finds himself in the wrong lane of a parking lot. The attendant rudely shouts, **“Back it up, Mac! Look out for that Buick!” (9).** Apprarently, Mitty must suffer the rudeness of insolent employees. Even though Mitty should have been more careful, he did not hit anything and parking attendants should not be so discourteous. Mitty should complain.

As Mitty snaps out of another daydream, he finds himself in the wrong lane of a parking lot. The attendant urgently shouts, **“Back it up, Mac! Look out for that Buick!” (9).** Mitty must stop daydreaming before he causes an accident. What if the attendant had not been there? A parking lot attendant parks cars; he should not be babysitting careless adults. No wonder Mitty angered him. Next time, Mitty might run over a person.

3. After Mitty purchases the overshoes, he **“began to wonder what the other thing was his wife had told him to get” (9).** Mitty is forgetful.

After Mitty purchased the overshoes he does not need, he **“began to wonder what the other thing was his wife had told him to get” (9).** Mrs. Mitty puts too much stress on her husband. She practically sets him up to fail. Being aware of his forgetfulness, she should have provided him with a list. She could even run her own errands.

After purchasing the overshoes he complained about needing, he **“began to wonder what the other thing was his wife had told him to get” (9).** How could an adult be so ridiculous? He surely must be aware of his forgetfulness. Mitty should write down the things his wife needs. Passive-aggressiveness is inappropriate in a grown man.