To understand the term 'alter', let's break it down step by step:

- **1. Definition:** The word 'alter' means to change or modify something. When you alter something, it is not completely replaced, but rather adjusted or transformed in some way.
- **2. Examples:** Here are a few examples to illustrate:
 - When you **alter** your clothes, you might have them made a little smaller or bigger, perhaps by taking in seams or adding fabric.
 - If you're working on a piece of art and decide to change the colors, you are **altering** your original design.
 - If you **alter** your plans for the weekend, it means you have decided to do something different than what you had originally planned.
- **3. Usage in Writing:** The term 'alter' is commonly used in writing and conversations. You might hear someone say, 'I need to alter my story to make it more interesting.' This means they want to change parts of their story to improve it.
- **4. Related Words:** Some words with similar meanings include 'modify,' 'change,' and 'adjust.' These words can often be used interchangeably depending on the context.

In summary, to 'alter' something simply means to change it in some way, making it different from its original state. This concept can apply to many areas of life, such as clothing, plans, ideas, and more!