What is a STRONG verb?

1) Strong verbs show instead of tell. In each example you can see how much better the second sentence is.

Example: The tiger ate the antelope.

The tiger devoured the antelope.

Example: The Buffalo injured the hunter.

The Buffalo gored the hunter.

2) Single verbs show better than verb/adverb combinations.

Example: The lion ferociously ate the gazelle.

The lion gobbled the gazelle (note the serendipitous use of alliteration).

3) Be verbs (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been) suck the life out of your writing!

Example: He was bludgeoned by the boxer.

The boxer bludgeoned him.

Example: The pedestrian was run over by the school bus.

The school bus ran over the pedestrian.

4) Have/has/had combined with a noun encourage readers to wedge their head in a vice.

Example: I had an argument with the referee.

I argued with the referee

Example: I had dinner with the sheriff.

I dined with the sheriff.