

Teaching Pages, Practice Activities, Review,
Challenge & Answer Keys

UK & US
Editions
Included

A step-by-step vocabulary resource

What's Included

A look inside the 25-page resource

- 6 Teaching Pages
- 12 Practice Activities
- Mixed Review
- Shades of Meaning Challenge
- Quick Reference Page
- Answer Keys
- UK & US English Editions Included

REFERENCE

Quick Reference: Shades of Meaning

Use this page to remember the different ways similar words can differ.

HOW MUCH? damp → wet → soaked	TEMPERATURE warm → hot → scorching
FEELING annoyed → angry → furious	MOVEMENT stroll • march • stomp • dash
VOICE whisper • say • call • shout	LOOKING glance • peek • stare • glare
SPEED walk • hurry • dash	ATTITUDE / FORCE look • glare; say • demand

REMEMBER

Similar words may differ in how strong something is, how it happens, how fast or loud it is, the feeling or way of acting it shows, or how much of something there is - for example, how wet or bright it is. The sentence or situation tells you which shade fits.

BEST-QUESTION ROUTINE

1. What do the words have in common? 2. What is different? 3. Which clue in the sentence supports the best choice?

KOJI PATH

Shades of Meaning

PRACTICE 4

Words for Speaking

Use the clues in the sentence to choose how the person spoke.

WORD BANK
whispered • murmured • said • called • shouted • demanded

1. "Please do not wake the baby," Mum ____ in a breathy voice so only I could hear.

2. The playground was quiet. Sam was across the way, so he ____ my name to get my attention.

3. "Give it back now!" Ana ____ firmly.

4. "I think it might rain," Dad ____ in a normal voice.

5. The crowd was noisy, so the coach ____ the instructions.

6. Still half asleep, Leo ____ a few low, unclear words.

FOR ADULTS

About This Resource

A simple, sentence-led introduction to shades of meaning for early readers and writers.

WHAT CHILDREN WILL LEARN

THE BIG IDEA
Words can be similar without meaning exactly the same thing. A precise word is a more exact, carefully chosen word. It can show strength, movement, speed, loudness, feeling or another important detail more clearly.

STRENGTH compare levels, such as damp, wet and soaked	HOW IT HAPPENS notice how walk, march and stomp create different pictures
VOICE compare words such as whisper, say and shout	LOOKING notice the difference between glance, stare and glare
FEELING compare words such as annoyed, angry and furious	USE THE CLUES use clues in the sentence or situation to choose the word that fits best.

HOW TO TEACH THE PACK

1. COMPARE BEFORE RANKING

Ask: "What is the same about these words?" What is different? Not every group of similar words belongs on a mild to strong ladder.

2. ASK WHAT THE WORD ADDS

Does the word tell us how strong something is, how it moves, how loud or fast it is, what feeling it shows, or how much of a quality there is?

PRACTICE 7

Same Situation, Different Word

Read each pair. Explain what the second word adds to the picture.

The boy walked into the room.	The boy stomped into the room.
1. What extra meaning does the second word add?	
Mia looked at the insect.	Mia stared at the insect.
2. What extra meaning does the second word add?	
Dad said my name.	Dad shouted my name.
3. What extra meaning does the second word add?	
The towel was wet.	The towel was soaked.
4. What extra meaning does the second word add?	

PRACTICE 12

Independent Word Choice

Choose a precise word for each situation. Use it so the sentence makes the meaning clear. Work independently. More than one answer may be possible when the word fits the situation.

WORD TOOLBOX
crept • marched • stomped • whispered • shouted • glanced • stared • glared • daunt • soaked • delighted • furious

1. A child needs to move quietly past a sleeping dog. Write a sentence using a precise movement word.

2. Someone needs to speak so people across the playground can hear. Write a sentence using a precise speaking word.

3. A child looks at the clock for only a moment. Write a sentence using a precise looking word.

4. A coat is completely wet after heavy rain. Write a sentence using the most precise word.

5. Choose one sentence above. What extra detail does your precise word add?

6. Choose a different word from the toolbox. Write a new sentence that makes its special meaning clear.

Learn First

Clear teaching pages build understanding before independent practice

What Are Shades of Meaning?



LEARN

What Are Shades of Meaning?

Similar words can share a basic idea while adding different details.

DEFINITION
Shades of meaning are small differences between words with similar meanings. The difference may show how strong something is, how it happens, how someone feels or acts, how fast something moves, how loud a voice is, or how much of a quality there is - for example, how wet or bright something is.

SAME BASIC ACTION - DIFFERENT PICTURE

walk move on foot - neutral	stomp walk with heavy, forceful steps
look direct your eyes - neutral	glare look angrily
say speak words - neutral	whisper speak very quietly

REMEMBER
Shades of meaning are not always a straight ladder. Two similar words may differ in how something happens, not only in how strong it is.

TRY IT
What extra picture does "stomped" give in this sentence? Ben stomped across the room.

KQJZ PATH Shades of Meaning

Different Kinds of Shades



LEARN

Different Kinds of Shades

Word choice can change more than just how strong something is.

HOW MUCH? damp → wet → soaked <small>How wet is it?</small>	FEELING annoyed → angry → furious <small>How strong is the feeling?</small>
MOVEMENT stroll • march • stomp <small>How does the person move?</small>	SPEAKING whisper • say • shout <small>How loud is the voice?</small>
LOOKING glance • stare • glare <small>What kind of look is it?</small>	SPEED walk • hurry • dash <small>How quickly does the person move?</small>

IMPORTANT
Do not force every group into a weakest-to-strongest order. Sometimes the useful difference is how something happens or the feeling or way of acting it shows instead.

CHECK THE DIFFERENCE
Stroll and march both describe moving on foot. Which difference matters most here - strength, how they move, speed or feeling? Explain your choice.

KQJZ PATH Shades of Meaning

How Precise Words Change the Picture



LEARN

How Precise Words Change the Picture

A precise word - a more exact, carefully chosen word - can replace a general word and add useful detail.

COMPARE THE SENTENCES

GENERAL WORD Ben walked past the sleeping baby.	PRECISE WORD Ben crept past the sleeping baby.
GENERAL WORD Ava looked at the clock.	PRECISE WORD Ava glanced at the clock.
GENERAL WORD Dad said my name.	PRECISE WORD Dad whispered my name.

WHAT THE PRECISE WORDS ADD
Crept adds quiet, careful movement. Glanced adds a quick look. Whispered adds a very quiet voice. The basic event stays similar, but the picture becomes clearer.

ASK THESE QUESTIONS

What is the same in each pair?	What extra detail changes?
Which sentence gives a clearer picture?	Does the precise word show movement, voice or looking?
Could another precise word also fit?	What else would change the best choice?

TRY IT
Replace "looked" with a more precise word: Ava looked at the clock for only a moment. What word would you choose, and what detail does it add?

KQJZ PATH Shades of Meaning

Clear teaching pages explain how similar words can differ in strength, feeling, movement, voice and more. Children learn to notice what each word adds to the sentence.

Practise & Apply

PRACTICE 1

Which Word Paints the Better Picture?

Circle the word that best fits each situation.

1. The baby was asleep, so Amir ____ across the room.
stomped crept marched
2. The referee needed everyone to hear, so she ____.
whispered shouted murmured
3. Nia looked quickly at the clock and then kept writing. She ____.
glared glanced stared

REFERENCE

Quick Reference: Shades of Meaning

Use this page to remember the different ways similar words can differ.

HOW MUCH? damp → wet → soaked	TEMPERATURE warm → hot
FEELING annoyed → angry → furious	Movement stroll • march
VOICE whisper • say • call • shout	LOOKING glance
SPEED walk • hurry • dash	LOOKING look

REMEMBER
Similar words may differ in how strong something is, how it happens, the way of acting it shows, or how much of something there is - for example, the sentence or situation tells you which shade fits.

BEST-QUESTION ROUTINE
1. What do the words have in common? 2. What is different? 3. Which is the best choice?

PRACTICE 5

Words for Looking

Match each looking word to what it tells the reader.

1. glance •
A. look steadily, often with interest
2. peek •
B. look quickly, often with interest

CHECK

Shades of Meaning Challenge

Complete the activities without using the teaching pages.

1. PICK THE BEST WORD

1. A person moves quietly past a sleeping baby.
creeps stomps marches
2. A person looks for a long time without looking away.
glances stares peeks
3. A person speaks so everyone across the field can hear.
whispers shouts murmurs

2. EXPLAIN THE SHADE

4. What is different about "stroll / stomp"?
5. What is different about "glance / glare"?
6. What is different about "damp / soaked"?

REVIEW

Shades of Meaning Review

Read about how words differ and which sentence clues help you choose the best word.

WORD

____ across the room.
stomped crept marched

He broke the toy. He ____.
glared glanced peeked

It was ____.
damp soaked dry

REFERENCE?

Remember: how it happens • volume = loud/quiet • duration = how long • attitude

PRACTICE 12

Student Word Choice

For each situation. Use it so the sentence makes the meaning clear. More than one answer may be possible when the word fits the situation.

He whispered • shouted • glanced • stared • glared • damp • soaked • delighted

Quietly past a sleeping dog. Write a sentence using a precise movement word.

People across the playground can hear. Write a sentence using a precise voice word.

For a moment. Write a sentence using a precise looking word.

Heavy rain. Write a sentence using the most precise word.

Extra detail does your precise word add?

Write a new sentence that makes its special meaning clear.

Useful information rather than simply sounding more difficult.

Recognise • Compare • Choose • Explain • Write