

Shades of meaning

Shades of meaning distinguishes the **small, subtle differences** between words. For example, the adjectives "happy" and "ecstatic" both show an emotion, but one packs a bigger punch than the other.

Shades of meaning could be described as being **mild, medium and strong**. For example, a party can be described as "ok" (mild), "good" (medium) or "fantastic" (strong). Using different shades of meaning makes writing more engaging and interesting for the reader.

1. Put the words below into groups of three with different shades of meaning.

Poor, funny, bad, miniature, sob, hilarious, amusing, enormous, shout, little, horrendous, cry, call out, bellow, humungous, big, microscopic, snivel		
1. Big		
2. Call out		
3. Funny		
4. Little		
5. Bad		
6. Cry		

2. Complete the chart with the words below.

Contented – hate – chuckle – unkind – disapprove – horrid – giggle – happy – nasty – ecstatic – dislike – laugh		
<i>MILD</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>	<i>STRONG</i>

3. Write a synonym for the words that has a stronger shade of meaning. Use a thesaurus to help you, if necessary.
 - a. Tired:
 - b. Scared:
 - c. Bored:
 - d. Tasty:
 - e. Clever:
 - f. Funny:

4. Write a short paragraph (50 words) describing a dream you had, use at least 3 words from the exercises above (medium or strong adjectives).

