

## 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.

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

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

- Complete the chart with the words below.

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

- Write a synonym for the words that has a stronger shade of meaning. Use a thesaurus to help you, if necessary.
  - Tired:
  - Scared:
  - Bored:
  - Tasty:
  - Clever:
  - 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).

