

Shades of Meaning

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

Some words have similar meanings, but one is **STRONGER** than the others. *Happy* → *glad* → *thrilled* all describe positive feelings, but they are not exactly the same. The strongest word fits the strongest feeling.

PRACTICE

Pick the word with the **BEST** shade of meaning.

- Which word shows the **STRONGEST** happiness?
 - okay
 - glad
 - happy
 - overjoyed
- Which word shows the **WEAKEST** anger?
 - furious
 - annoyed
 - enraged
 - livid
- Which word fits **BEST**? *After running ten miles, I was* _____.
 - a little sleepy
 - exhausted
 - kind of tired
 - rested
- Which word fits **BEST**? *When I lost my pencil, I was* _____.
 - furious
 - annoyed
 - devastated
 - heartbroken



5. Order these from WEAKEST to STRONGEST: *chilly, freezing, cool, cold*.
 - A. cool, chilly, cold, freezing
 - B. freezing, cold, chilly, cool
 - C. cold, cool, freezing, chilly
 - D. chilly, freezing, cool, cold
6. Which word shows the STRONGEST surprise?
 - A. interested
 - B. surprised
 - C. amazed
 - D. shocked
7. Which word BEST replaces *said* for someone whispering?
 - A. yelled
 - B. shouted
 - C. murmured
 - D. screamed
8. Which word BEST replaces *said* for someone who is angry?
 - A. whispered
 - B. snapped
 - C. mumbled
 - D. asked
9. Pick the BEST word: *The kitten was so small that we _____ over its tiny paws.* (gasped / glanced / glared / giggled)
Answer: _____
10. Pick a feeling. Write THREE words for it from weakest to strongest. Example: happy → cheerful → overjoyed.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10

Explanations

1. D	Overjoyed > happy > glad > okay. The strongest word wins.
2. B	Annoyed is mild. Furious, enraged, and livid are very strong.
3. B	Ten miles → exhausted is the strongest fit. The others are too mild or opposite.
4. B	Losing a pencil is a small problem → mild annoyance. The others are too strong.
5. A	Cool → chilly → cold → freezing. The others scramble the order.
6. D	Shocked > amazed > surprised > interested.
7. C	Murmured = quiet speech. The others are loud.
8. B	Snapped = sharp, angry speech. The others fit other moods.
9.	Answer: gasped or giggled (either fits) Gasped = strong surprise; giggled = light laughter. Both fit something cute and small. Glanced/glared do not fit the meaning.
10.	Answer: Examples: tired → exhausted → wiped out. OR cold → freezing → arctic. Any three words on the same feeling in increasing intensity.



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