

## Shades of Meaning

### *Advanced Writing*

**Shades of meaning** = a slight difference in meaning.

- Choosing the right word enhances your writing.
- Use the stronger word that expresses more emotion or action.

**Examples:**

- *Kids* and *youth* are both types of young people. *Which one seems older?*
- *Screamed* or *said*. *Which one is the stronger word?*

- Replace the word in parentheses with a stronger word, expressing more emotion or action.

1. Doris (said) \_\_\_\_\_, "I would like the kite in the window, please."

2. The (large) \_\_\_\_\_ squid was a popular attraction at the aquarium.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (looked) \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (walked) \_\_\_\_\_

- The following words are listed from weak to strong. Explain the differences. (1-2 sentences each)

5. hard, difficult, impossible

6. amusing, funny, hilarious

7. think, believe, know

\_\_\_\_\_

- Rewrite the following paragraph, replacing underlined words with stronger shades of meaning.

**Apollo 11** was the spaceflight that put the first two humans on the Moon. Mission commander Neil Armstrong and pilot Buzz Aldrin, both American, landed the lunar module *Eagle* on July 20, 1969. They stayed over two hours outside the spacecraft, and brought 47 pounds of lunar material to bring back to Earth. Michael Collins flew the command module *Columbia* alone in lunar orbit while they were on the Moon's surface. When Armstrong went onto the lunar surface, he said the event was "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."



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1. Doris (said) requested, "I would like the kite in the window, please."
2. The (large) humungous squid was a popular attraction at the aquarium.
3. Albert the cat (looked) observed the dog carefully from inside the house.
4. Mrs. Aletti (walked) strolled down the street wearing comfortable shoes.

- The following words are listed from weak to strong. Explain the differences. (1-2 sentences each)

5. hard, difficult, impossible *Hard and difficult imply it can be done, but impossible does not.*
6. amusing, funny, hilarious *There is more intense feeling with the word hilarious.*
7. think, believe, know *Think and believe are not as certain as know.*

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