

Name _____

Date _____ Answer Key _____

Describe the Difference Between Related Words #3

Some words are similar to each other but have small differences that can change the tone or meaning of a sentence. These small differences are called **shades of meaning**.

For example, **dismantle** and **demolish** both mean to destroy. However, to **dismantle** is to disassemble, while to **demolish** is to completely destroy.

Explain the difference between the related words in each pair.

1. a **gaudy** necklace vs. an **extravagant** necklace: Gaudy implies that something is overly flashy or showy, to the point of being ugly, while extravagant implies that something is extremely elaborate, impressive, or luxurious.
2. to **irritate** someone vs. to **infuriate** someone: To irritate means to cause annoyance, while to infuriate means to cause someone to feel great anger.
3. an **inspiring** speech vs. a **galvanizing** a speech: Inspiring indicates that listeners felt enlightened or invigorated, while galvanizing indicates that listeners were stimulated or motivated into urgent action.
4. a **cascade** of water vs. a **deluge** of water: A cascade is a quickly moving and continuous falling flow of water, like a waterfall. A deluge is a sudden and severe flood or torrent of water.
5. facing a **predicament** vs. facing a **crisis**: A predicament is a difficult or perplexing situation. A crisis is a dire, unstable situation with an imminent risk of danger or trouble.
6. to **vacate** an area vs. to **evacuate** an area: To vacate simply means to exit or leave a place, while evacuate means to be forced to leave an area, usually for a specific reason.

Draw pictures to show the difference between the related words below.

a summit	a precipice
Drawings will vary, but a summit should feature the highest point of a mountain or hill.	Drawings will vary, but a precipice should feature an extreme edge of a cliff, before a steep slope or drop-off.