

Describe the Difference Between Related Words

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, **sip** and **gulp** both mean to drink liquid. However, to **sip** is to drink a small amount, while to **gulp** is to take in a large amount of liquid.

Explain the difference between the related words in each pair.

1. being **delayed** vs. being **tardy**: Both **delayed** and **tardy** mean late, but being **delayed** means you have a good reason for being late, while being **tardy** implies that you are late on purpose or because of laziness.
2. to **gaze** at something vs. to **peer** at something: **Gaze** and **peer** both mean to look at something, but to **gaze** at something means taking a long, steady look, while to **peer** at something means looking curiously or carefully.
3. **strolling** somewhere vs. **hiking** somewhere: **Strolling** and **hiking** both mean walking, but **strolling** is slower and more relaxed, while **hiking** implies more effort and often occurs in more rugged places.
4. making a **demand** vs. making a **request**: A **demand** and a **request** are both ways of asking for something, but a **demand** is more forceful, while a **request** is more polite.
5. a **carefree** person vs. a **careless** person: **Carefree** and **careless** both mean being without care, but **carefree** suggests that there isn't any reason to worry, while **careless** suggests that you're ignoring responsibilities.
6. moving at a **sluggish** pace vs. moving at a **leisurely** pace: **Sluggish** and **leisurely** both mean moving slowly, but **sluggish** suggests the movement is difficult or unpleasant, while **leisurely** suggests the movement is relaxed and unhurried.

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

a meadow

Drawings will vary, but a meadow may have taller grasses and other wildflowers.

a pasture

Drawings will vary, but a pasture should have mostly grasses and farm animals grazing.