

Shades of Meaning: Order Words by Intensity

Many words are similar but have subtle differences in meaning. You can think of these differences as **shades of meaning**. When writing, it's important to consider the different shades of meaning between words. Choosing a word that is more precise or descriptive can help you express your ideas more clearly and accurately.

Look at each group of words below. Then put them in order from least intense to most intense.



Ex.	bawl cry whimper	whimper	cry	bawl
1.	disgusting revolting unpleasant	unpleasant	disgusting	revolting
2.	astounded shocked startled	startled	shocked	astounded
3.	agony distress misery	distress	misery	agony
4.	abundant excessive sufficient	sufficient	abundant	excessive
5.	carelessly casually haphazardly	casually	carelessly	haphazardly
6.	delighted ecstatic pleased	pleased	delighted	ecstatic
7.	accident disaster mishap	mishap	accident	disaster
8.	command instruct tell	tell	instruct	command
9.	adore appreciate worship	appreciate	adore	worship
10.	crucial dire important	important	crucial	dire