

Shades of Meaning: Which Word?

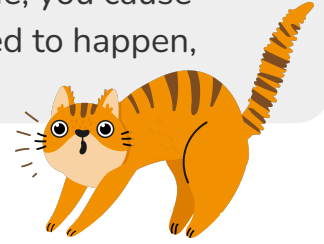
Some words are alike and have small differences in meaning. These differences are called **shades of meaning**. Think about the words **surprise** and **startle**.

Both words mean *to cause something unexpected to happen*, but in different ways.

If you **surprise** someone, you cause something unexpected to happen, usually in a good way.



If you **startle** someone, you cause something unexpected to happen, usually in a bad way.



It's more enjoyable to be surprised.

Directions: Read each question and circle your answer.

1. Who would you rather listen to?

- a. someone talking
- b. someone complaining

2. Who would you rather have as a friend?

- a. someone nosy
- b. someone interested

3. Which is slower?

- a. someone crawling
- b. someone jogging

4. Which would you rather complete?

- a. something simple
- b. something boring

5. Which takes longer to dry?

- a. something wet
- b. something soaked

6. Which is more polite?

- a. someone staring
- b. someone looking

7. Who shows more excitement?

- a. someone eager
- b. someone ready

8. Which is colder?

- a. somewhere chilly
- b. somewhere freezing