Common Core Aligned

3RD GRADE LANGUAGE

Standard 5

- Literal & Nonliteral
- Real-Life Connections
- Shades of Meaning

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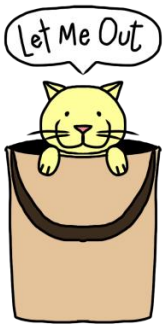
L.3.5.a Literal & Nonliteral

I can distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps).

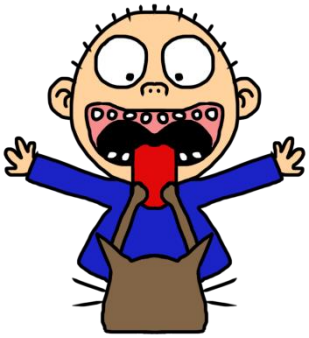
A literal meaning of a word or phrase is the _____ definition. Sometimes authors like to use nonliteral words and phrases to make a comparison or exaggerated statement. In this case, the meaning is _____ than the basic definition the words imply. The nonliteral meaning is a figure of speech called an _____.

It is raining cats and dogs.
It is raining very hard.



You let the cat out of the bag.
You gave away a secret.

It's no use crying over spilt milk.
Don't get upset about something bad that you can't change.



What's wrong? The cat got your tongue?
Someone will not speak.

You need to zip your lip.
You need to keep quiet.

Don't open a can of worms.
Don't create a situation that will cause trouble.

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Nonliteral Words and Phrases in Mentor Texts

"'But I must find an umbrella before I go. They say it is going to rain cats and dogs.' 'Goody!' said Amelia Bedelia. 'We will get a free pet. Would you like a dog or a cat?'" (Parish, Amelia Bedelia and the Cat, 2008, p. 6-7).

"**My goose is cooked**." . . . "**Social butterfly**,". . . "**More fun than a barrel of monkeys**," (Leedy, There's a Frog in My Throat: 440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me, 2003).

Practice

Identify if each sentence uses literal (L) or nonliteral (NL) meanings of words and phrases.

____ 1. The toddler cried his eyes out when his favorite toy broke.

____ 2. The football team is taking steps to make sure they win the playoffs.

____ 3. I plan to visit my cousins during the summer months.

____ 4. In the mornings mom tells us to shake a leg so we're not late for school.

____ 5. My parents are trying to prevent my baby brother from falling down the stairs.

____ 6. My sister cried a lot when she failed her spelling test.

____ 7. Tony and I are going to hang out at the amusement park on Saturday.

____ 8. You'll need to hurry if you want to see the beginning of the movie.

Use context clues to figure out the nonliteral meaning of each idiom.

1. Before the dance recital I had butterflies in my stomach.

   a. was relaxed
   b. felt nervous
   c. felt excited
   d. was scared

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2. My mom told me to hold my horses. I couldn't play at the park until my brother woke up from his nap.

a. watch television
b. hurry up
c. be patient
d. do chores

3. We hit the road early in the morning to drive to our grandparents' house.

a. left the house
b. slept
c. woke up
d. arrived

Use context clues to match each underlined idiom to its meaning.

____ 1. My teenage brother is a couch potato.

____ 2. My grandpa has a heart of gold and will do anything for us.

____ 3. After walking around twelve hours at the park, I'm ready to hit the sack.

____ 4. I was on top of the world after my soccer team won the championship.

____ 5. If you break mom's vase you'll be in hot water.

____ 6. A trip to Disney World costs an arm and a leg.

____ 7. Learning to ride my bicycle was a piece of cake.

____ 8. My little sister had ants in her pants during the concert.

a. really easy
b. feeling very happy
c. not able to sit still
d. serious trouble
e. extremely lazy
f. sincere caring person
g. go to bed
h. very expensive

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You Try It

Underline the idiom in each sentence. Then write its meaning on the line provided.

1. **Taylor and her friend were on cloud nine when they found out they were going to the Justin Bieber concert.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

2. **My mother has a green thumb when it comes to gardening.**
   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

3. **The singer canceled her performance because she had a frog in her throat.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

4. **During the party my mom and her friends sat on the porch shooting the breeze for hours.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

5. **Since two heads are better than one, my brother and I worked together on the puzzle.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

6. **Fear was written all over my sister's face as she stood at the edge of the high diving board.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   _____

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Explain the meaning of the following idioms. Then write a sentence using the expression.

Out on a limb: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

Time flies: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

Apple of my eye: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

When pigs fly: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

Tickled pink: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

Lost my head: _____

Sentence: _____

_____.

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Write

Look for idioms as you are reading your own books. Record the idioms you find in the chart below. Then, explain the meaning of each idiom.

Book title	Page	Idiom	Nonliteral meaning

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L.3.5.b Real-life Connections

I can identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., *describe people who are friendly or helpful*).

Word meanings and context clues help identify real-life connections between _____ and their _____. Words are connected to their use when they are used correctly, meaning the word definition _____ what is being described.

Real-life Connection? **YES!**

Mackenzie is very friendly.
She introduced herself to the new student at recess.

Real-life Connection? **NO!**

Mackenzie is very friendly.
She was selected captain of her kickball team at recess.

Describe people who are helpful. Why would you say these people are helpful?

teachers

nurses

fire fighters

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Real-life Connections in Mentor Texts

"The roller coaster is very big and very **noisy** . . . WHOOSH! THE TRAIN ZIPS. IT ZOOMS. IT DIPS AND DIVES. AND GOES ALL-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L THE WAY AROUND. WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!" (Frazee, Roller Coaster, 2003, p. 4, 15-25).

"'The way to save Wilbur's life is to **play a trick** on Zuckerman. If I can fool a bug,' thought Charlotte, 'I can surely fool a man. People are not as smart as bugs.' Wilbur walked into his yard just at that moment. 'What are you thinking about, Charlotte?' he asked. 'I was just thinking,' said the spider, 'that people are very gullible.' 'What does '**gullible**' mean?' '**Easy to fool**,' said Charlotte," (White, Charlotte's Web, 1952, p. 58).

Practice

Decide if the word in bold is connected to its use.

1. Lucas is very **sporty**.
   He plays football every weekend.

   YES NO

2. Max is such a **slob**!
   He never cleans up after himself.

   YES NO

3. Our neighbor's dog is **annoying**.
   He barks at everyone.

   YES NO

4. Lisa is very **energetic**.
   She watches a lot of television.

   YES NO

5. My dad is a **serious** person.
   He is always playing jokes on me.

   YES NO

6. Kyle is very **polite**. He always says, "please" and "thank-you.".

   YES NO

7. Martin Luther King Jr. is a **hero**.
   He helped give equal rights to people of all colors.

   YES NO

8. The summer months are very **hot**.
   I always wear my coat and hat.

   YES NO

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Read the sentences below and identify how each person is being described.

1. Jerome found a ten dollar bill on the playground and turned it into the office.

   a) honest c) careful

   b) brave d) greedy

2. The toddler refused to put on his shoes. He sat on the floor with his arms crossed.

   a) lonely c) grouchy

   b) spoiled d) stubborn

3. Suzie wouldn't share any of her toys with her friends. She hid them behind her back.

   a) lazy c) dishonest

   b) selfish d) rude

4. My dad is always making us laugh with his jokes. Sometimes I laugh so hard my belly hurts.

   a) funny c) loving

   b) serious d) calm

You Try It

Write two sentences for each word. Be sure to give an example that connects the word to who or what you describe.

Example: curious

The detective is very curious.
He asks questions and investigates everything.

1. **rude** - _____

_____

2. **generous** - _____

_____

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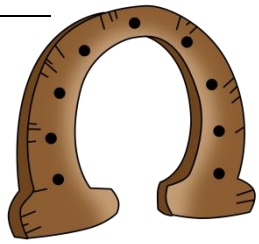
Describe someone who is friendly. Include details that identify why they are friendly.

Describe a situation where someone would feel lucky. Include details that identify why they would feel lucky.



Describe a situation that would be scary. Include details that identify why it would be scary.

Describe someone who is helpful. Include details that identify why they are helpful.

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L.3.5.c Shades of Meaning

I can distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g. *knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered*).

Shades of meaning refers to words that have _____ meanings, but with a slight _____. Some words are weaker or stronger than others, allowing your writing to be more _____.

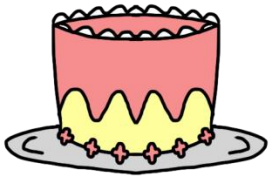
weakest → strongest

Example: wondered, heard, suspected, believed, knew

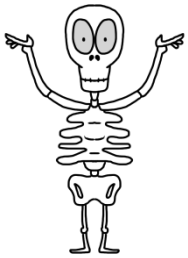
Smart - Brainy

Funny - Hilarious

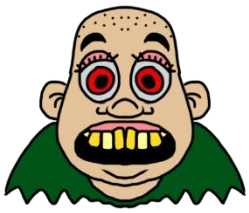
Old - Ancient



Fancy - Elegant



Scrawny - Bony



Ugly - Grotesque

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Shades of Meaning in Mentor Texts

"If you were a synonym, you would mean the same thing, or almost the same thing, as another word. You could be **BIG**, **HUGE**, or **GIGANTIC.** " (Dahl, If You Were a Synonym, 2007).

"Do you feel **tired** or **beat** or **exhausted**, from making the cake that you've baked and you've frosted?" (Cleary, Pitch and Throw, Grasp and Know: What Is a Synonym? 2007)

Practice

certain	tiny	holler	furious	walk	grouchy
shock	frighten	push	peaceful	break	pretty
enormous	happy	reduce	hot	snooze	shiny

Use the words in the box to find a word that is closely related to the following words. Then draw a star next to the word you think is stronger.

shove _____ angry _____

beautiful _____ small _____

definite _____ grumpy _____

terrify _____ gigantic _____

calm _____ decrease _____

yell _____ sizzling _____

delighted _____ stroll _____

sleep _____ sparkly _____

surprise _____ shatter _____

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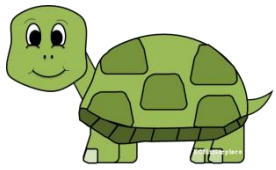
Circle the closely related verb that fits best in each sentence.

1. The vase (broke, shattered) into a hundred tiny pieces when I accidentally hit it with my baseball.
2. I gently (closed, slammed) the door shut, so I wouldn't wake my baby sister.
3. Kamal slowly (hiked, trudged) through the thick mud as he tried to find his way back to the tent.
4. My mom (cleaned, scrubbed) the baked on gunk off the lasagna pan with a scour pad.
5. Lauren lightly (drizzled, poured) the chocolate syrup over her ice-cream.

You Try It



Brainstorm two words with shades of meaning that are closely related to the first word.

weakest → strongest

Example: upset, mad, furious

1. shades of meaning

might _____ _____

2. shades of meaning

guess _____ _____

3. shades of meaning

scared _____ _____

4. shades of meaning

happy _____ _____

5. shades of meaning

sure _____ _____

6. shades of meaning

nervous _____ _____

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Use a thesaurus to find two words with shades of meaning that are closely related to the given word, but are more specific. Then, write a sentence, using one of the more specific adjectives.

Example: sad, gloomy, depressed
After five days of rain, I was feeling very gloomy.

1. hungry, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

2. unlikely, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

3. funny, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

4. possible, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

5. annoyed, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

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ANSWER

KEY

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L.3.5.a Literal & Nonliteral

I can distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps).

A literal meaning of a word or phrase is the **dictionary** definition. Sometimes authors like to use nonliteral words and phrases to make a comparison or exaggerated statement. In this case, the meaning is **different** than the basic definition the words imply. The nonliteral meaning is a figure of speech called an **idiom**.

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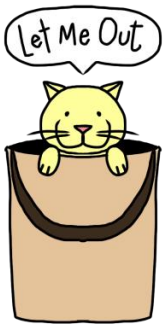
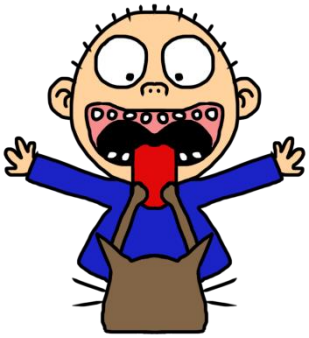


You let the cat out of the bag.
You gave away a secret.

It's no use crying over spilt milk.
Don't get upset about something bad that you can't change.



What's wrong? The cat got your tongue?
Someone will not speak.

You need to zip your lip.
You need to keep quiet.

Don't open a can of worms.
Don't create a situation that will cause trouble.

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Nonliteral Words and Phrases in Mentor Texts

"'But I must find an umbrella before I go. They say it is going to rain cats and dogs.' 'Goody!' said Amelia Bedelia. 'We will get a free pet. Would you like a dog or a cat?'" (Parish, Amelia Bedelia and the Cat, 2008, p. 6-7).

"**My goose is cooked**." . . . "**Social butterfly**,". . . "**More fun than a barrel of monkeys**," (Leedy, There's a Frog in My Throat: 440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me, 2003).

Practice

Identify if each sentence uses literal (L) or nonliteral (NL) meanings of words and phrases.

NL 1. The toddler cried his eyes out when his favorite toy broke.

NL 2. The football team is taking steps to make sure they win the playoffs.

L 3. I plan to visit my cousins during the summer months.

NL 4. In the mornings mom tells us to shake a leg so we're not late for school.

L 5. My parents are trying to prevent my baby brother from falling down the stairs.

L 6. My sister cried a lot when she failed her spelling test.

NL 7. Tony and I are going to hang out at the amusement park on Saturday.

L 8. You'll need to hurry if you want to see the beginning of the movie.

Use context clues to figure out the nonliteral meaning of each idiom.

1. Before the dance recital I had butterflies in my stomach.

a. was relaxed
c. felt excited
b. felt nervous
d. was scared

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2. My mom told me to hold my horses. I couldn't play at the park until my brother woke up from his nap.

a. watch television
c. be patient
b. hurry up
d. do chores

3. We hit the road early in the morning to drive to our grandparents' house.

a. left the house
c. woke up
b. slept
d. arrived

Use context clues to match each underlined idiom to its meaning.

e 1. My teenage brother is a couch potato.

f 2. My grandpa has a heart of gold and will do anything for us.

g 3. After walking around twelve hours at the park, I'm ready to hit the sack.

b 4. I was on top of the world after my soccer team won the championship.

d 5. If you break mom's vase you'll be in hot water.

h 6. A trip to Disney World costs an arm and a leg.

a 7. Learning to ride my bicycle was a piece of cake.

c 8. My little sister had ants in her pants during the concert.

a. really easy
b. feeling very happy
c. not able to sit still
d. serious trouble
e. extremely lazy
f. sincere caring person
g. go to bed
h. very expensive

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You Try It

Underline the idiom in each sentence. Then write its meaning on the line provided.

1. **Taylor and her friend were on cloud nine when they found out they were going to the Justin Bieber concert.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   To be extremely happy or excited

2. **My mother has a green thumb when it comes to gardening.**
   What does this idiom mean?

   Having the ability to grow plants or a garden well

3. **The singer canceled her performance because she had a frog in her throat.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   Unable to speak clearly or having a sore throat

4. **During the party my mom and her friends sat on the porch shooting the breeze for hours.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   Talk casually about unimportant things

5. **Since two heads are better than one, my brother and I worked together on the puzzle.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   Two people working together have a better chance to succeed than one person

6. **Fear was written all over my sister's face as she stood at the edge of the high diving board.**

   What does this idiom mean?

   You can easily figure something out by looking at someone's face

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Explain the meaning of the following idioms. Then write a sentence using the expression.

Out on a limb: Placing yourself in a risky position to do something

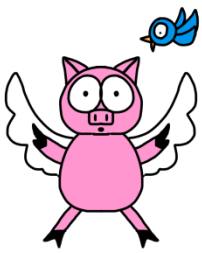
Sentence: Sentences will vary.

Time flies: Time passes surprisingly quickly, especially when you are having fun

Sentence: _____

Apple of my eye: Special favorite or loved person

Sentence: _____



When pigs fly: An event is highly unlikely or will never happen

Sentence: _____

Tickled pink: Extremely pleased or entertained

Sentence: _____

Lost my head: Angry, confused, or emotional to the point that you cannot think

Sentence: _____

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Write

Look for idioms as you are reading your own books. Record the idioms you find in the chart below. Then, explain the meaning of each idiom.

Book title	Page	Idiom	Nonliteral meaning

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L.3.5.b Real-life Connections

I can identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are friendly or helpful).

Word meanings and context clues help identify real-life connections between **words** and their **uses**. Words are connected to their use when they are used correctly, meaning the word definition **matches** what is being described.

Real-life Connection? **YES!**

Mackenzie is very friendly.
She introduced herself to the new student at recess.

Real-life Connection? **NO!**

Mackenzie is very friendly.
She was selected captain of her kickball team at recess.

Describe people who are helpful. Why would you say these people are helpful?

teachers

nurses

fire fighters

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Real-life Connections in Mentor Texts

"The roller coaster is very big and very **noisy** . . . WHOOSH! THE TRAIN ZIPS. IT ZOOMS. IT DIPS AND DIVES. AND GOES ALL-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L-L THE WAY AROUND. WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!" (Frazee, Roller Coaster, 2003, p. 4, 15-25).

"'The way to save Wilbur's life is to **play a trick** on Zuckerman. If I can fool a bug,' thought Charlotte, 'I can surely fool a man. People are not as smart as bugs.' Wilbur walked into his yard just at that moment. 'What are you thinking about, Charlotte?' he asked. 'I was just thinking,' said the spider, 'that people are very gullible.' 'What does '**gullible**' mean?' '**Easy to fool**,' said Charlotte," (White, Charlotte's Web, 1952, p. 58).

Practice

Decide if the word in bold is connected to its use.

1. Lucas is very **sporty**.
   He plays football every weekend.

   (YES) NO

2. Max is such a **slob**!
   He never cleans up after himself.

   (YES) NO

3. Our neighbor's dog is **annoying**.
   He barks at everyone.

   (YES) NO

4. Lisa is very **energetic**.
   She watches a lot of television.

   YES (NO)

5. My dad is a **serious** person.
   He is always playing jokes on me.

   YES (NO)

6. Kyle is very **polite**. He always says, "please" and "thank-you.".

   (YES) NO

7. Martin Luther King Jr. is a **hero**.
   He helped give equal rights to people of all colors.

   (YES) NO

8. The summer months are very **hot**.
   I always wear my coat and hat.

   YES (NO)

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Read the sentences below and identify how each person is being described.

1. Jerome found a ten dollar bill on the playground and turned it into the office.

   a) honest c) careful

   b) brave d) greedy

2. The toddler refused to put on his shoes. He sat on the floor with his arms crossed.

   a) lonely c) grouchy

   b) spoiled d) stubborn

3. Suzie wouldn't share any of her toys with her friends. She hid them behind her back.

   a) lazy c) dishonest

   b) selfish d) rude

4. My dad is always making us laugh with his jokes. Sometimes I laugh so hard my belly hurts.

   a) funny c) loving

   b) serious d) calm

You Try It

Write two sentences for each word. Be sure to give an example that connects the word to who or what you describe.

Example: curious

The detective is very curious.
He asks questions and investigates everything.

1. **rude -** Answers will vary

2. **generous -**

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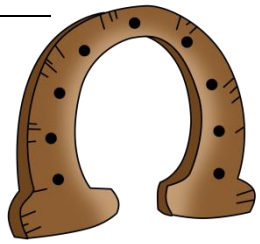
Describe someone who is friendly. Include details that identify why they are friendly.

Describe a situation where someone would feel lucky. Include details that identify why they would feel lucky.

Answers will vary



Describe a situation that would be scary. Include details that identify why it would be scary.

Describe someone who is helpful. Include details that identify why they are helpful.

Answers will vary

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L.3.5.c Shades of Meaning

I can distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g. *knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered*).

Shades of meaning refers to words that have **similar** meanings, but with a slight **difference**. Some words are weaker or stronger than others, allowing your writing to be more **precise**.

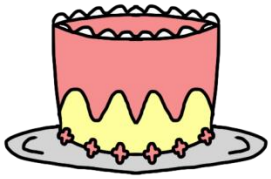
weakest → strongest

Example: wondered, heard, suspected, believed, knew

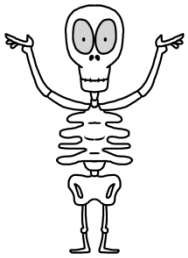
Smart - Brainy

Funny - Hilarious

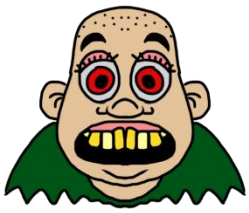
Old - Ancient



Fancy - Elegant



Scrawny - Bony



Ugly - Grotesque

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Shades of Meaning in Mentor Texts

"If you were a synonym, you would mean the same thing, or almost the same thing, as another word. You could be **BIG**, **HUGE**, or **GIGANTIC.** " (Dahl, If You Were a Synonym, 2007).

"Do you feel **tired** or **beat** or **exhausted**, from making the cake that you've baked and you've frosted?" (Cleary, Pitch and Throw, Grasp and Know: What Is a Synonym? 2007)

Practice

certain	★ tiny	★ holler	★ furious	★ walk	★ grouchy
★ shock	frighten	push	★ peaceful	break	pretty
enormous	happy	★ reduce	hot	snooze	shiny

Use the words in the box to find a word that is closely related to the following words. Then draw a star next to the word you think is stronger.

Note: Students may have different opinions as to which word is stronger.

★ shove push

beautiful pretty

definite certain

★ terrify frighten

calm peaceful

yell holler

★ delighted happy

★ sleep snooze

surprise shock

angry furious

small tiny

grumpy grouchy

★ gigantic enormous

decrease reduce

★ sizzling hot

stroll walk

★ sparkly shiny

★ shatter break

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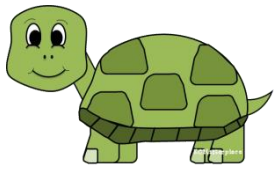
Circle the closely related verb that fits best in each sentence.

1. The vase (broke, shattered) into a hundred tiny pieces when I accidentally hit it with my baseball.
2. I gently (closed, slammed) the door shut, so I wouldn't wake my baby sister.
3. Kamal slowly (hiked, trudged) through the thick mud as he tried to find his way back to the tent.
4. My mom (cleaned, scrubbed) the baked on gunk off the lasagna pan with a scour pad.
5. Lauren lightly (drizzled, poured) the chocolate syrup over her ice-cream.

You Try It



Brainstorm two words with shades of meaning that are closely related to the first word.

weakest → strongest

Example: upset, mad, furious

Sample Answers

As long as students have a reasoning behind their order, it is acceptable.

1. shades of meaning

might	probably or likely	certain

2. shades of meaning

guess	estimate	calculate

3. shades of meaning

scared	terrified	petrified

4. shades of meaning

happy	thrilled	ecstatic

5. shades of meaning

sure	confident	convinced

6. shades of meaning

nervous	fearful	hysterical

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Use a thesaurus to find two words with shades of meaning that are closely related to the given word, but are more specific. Then, write a sentence, using one of the more specific adjectives.

Example: sad, gloomy, depressed
After five days of rain, I was feeling very gloomy.

Answers will vary. Have students pair share their words and sentences.

1. **hungry**, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

2. **unlikely**, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

3. **funny**, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

4. **possible**, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

5. **annoyed**, _____, _____

   Sentence: _____

   _____

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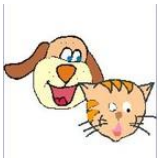

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