

Name: _____

Shades of Meaning: Intensity

Synonyms and other groups of words used to describe similar ideas often have small but important differences in meaning. Using the most accurate word makes your ideas clearer and your writing more descriptive.

One common difference in meaning is intensity, or how strong or forceful an action or emotion is.

example: Someone **happy** feels content and generally pleased.
Someone **ecstatic** is happy beyond reason or self-control.



Complete each sentence by writing the word that is **more** intense.

1. The haunted house became more _____ further in.
frightening / terrifying



Preview

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Complete each sentence by writing the word that is **less** intense.

6. Reading the note aloud to the class was _____.
humiliating / embarrassing
7. Would you care to take a relaxing _____ through the park?
stroll / march
8. The guinea pig _____ her pellets quietly.
devoured / nibbled
9. The trunk of Dad's van was _____ in a car accident.
smashed / demolished
10. Lorelai perfectly followed every _____ she was given.
instruction / command

ANSWER KEY

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