

Vocabulary Development

Shades of Meaning in Related Words

As you learned in Unit 2, synonyms are words that have the same meaning. However, some words are related but have small differences in meaning. These words have different **shades of meaning**. It is important to be aware of the different shades of meaning of words as you read.

Look at the word pairs from the Chapter 2 readings. Their meanings are related, but they are also different.

| Related Words | Related Meaning | Difference in Meaning |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• regular• ordinary | normal | regular: usual ordinary: common; not special |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• damp• soggy | wet | damp: a little wet soggy: wet and soft |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strong• fierce | having physical strength | strong: having physical strength fierce: powerful, having great physical strength |

1. Work with a partner. Look at the pairs of words. Discuss these questions: How are the meanings of the words similar? How are they different?

a. beautiful / handsome

d. difficult / challenging

b. intelligent / clever

e. quietly / softly

c. see / watch

f. large / huge