

7. Finding the Right Word

Discuss

When you write, you want to use words that say **exactly** what you mean. Many words are close in meaning, but the differences make a big difference! Read the following examples together:

look	<u>Look</u> means turn your eyes toward something. I <u>looked</u> at the photos.
glance	<u>Glance</u> means to look quickly at something. I <u>glanced</u> at the clock to see what time it was.
peek	<u>Peek</u> means to look quickly and slyly. Don't <u>peek</u> at the answers.
stare	<u>Stare</u> means to look at something for a long time with wide-open eyes. She <u>stared</u> at the stars for hours.
glare	<u>Glare</u> means to look angrily at someone or something. He <u>glared</u> at the driver who was honking her horn.

As a group, discuss which word in parentheses fits best in each sentence below. Explain your choices.

1. He (glared, glanced) at his watch to see what time it was.
2. She (stared, peeked) around the corner to see where he was hiding.
3. They (stared, looked) at the table of contents to find the right chapter.
4. I (glared, stared) at my favorite rock stars as they entered the stadium.
5. She (peeked, glared) at the kids who were making fun of her brother.

Writing Practice

Study the words and meanings below. Then complete each sentence following the box with the best word possible.

handsome	<u>Handsome</u> describes someone who is good-looking or something that is very impressive. The castle was extremely <u>handsome</u>.
gorgeous	<u>Gorgeous</u> means very beautiful and colorful. She wore a <u>gorgeous</u> red and gold dress to the dance.
graceful	<u>Graceful</u> means beautiful in form and movement. She was a <u>graceful</u> dancer. The tree swayed <u>gracefully</u> in the breeze.
pretty	<u>Pretty</u> describes something that is nice to look at, but isn't outstanding enough to be called gorgeous or beautiful. These daisies are <u>pretty</u>. The blue dress isn't gorgeous, but it's very <u>pretty</u>.

Use what you've learned.

1. She wore a _____ costume made of red and green silk.
2. He was modest about his looks, even though he was very _____.
3. The daffodils are _____, but they can't compare with the beauty of the roses.
4. As she left the stage, the singer waved in a _____ way to her fans.

Partner Work

1. Discuss the sentences you completed for **Writing Practice**. Explain your choices.
2. With your partner, read aloud each boldfaced word and its meaning. Then use each word in a sentence.
Example: leave: to go away from or move away from
The bus will leave the terminal at 8 A.M.
 - a. **quit:** to stop doing something

 - b. **vacate:** to go away from a place and leave nothing in it

 - c. **abandon:** to leave a place or person and never return

Writing on Your Own

Use a dictionary to find the exact meaning of each word below. Write the meaning. Then use the word in a sentence of your own.

Example: request

Meaning: **ask for something or ask someone to do something**

Sentence: **I requested a favor from my teacher.**

1. **beg**

Meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

2. **coax**

Meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

3. **demand**

Meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

4. **plead**

Meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

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Writing Practice

1. gorgeous
2. handsome
3. pretty
4. graceful

Partner Work

Answers will vary. *Examples:*

- a. He decided to quit smoking.
- b. They were asked to vacate the apartment.
- c. We decided to abandon that campground and look for a better one.

Answer Key

Writing on Your Own

Example sentences:

1. I'm going to beg Mr. Hendrik to let me retake the test.
2. She coaxed the baby to eat the cereal.
3. The landlord demands that we pay the rent on time.
4. The captives plead for mercy.