

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Shades of Meaning

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.

**example:** To **bother** someone is to annoy them or make them less content.  
To **infuriate** someone is to make them greatly angry.



Read each pair of ideas. Explain how the bold words change the meaning.

1. a student **eager** to learn vs. a student **anxious** to learn

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4. **informing** someone vs. **warning** someone

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5. a **cracked** phone screen vs. a **shattered** phone screen

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6. **wishing for** chocolate vs. **craving** chocolate

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# ANSWER KEY

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