Name: _____

# Shades of Meaning: Strong vs. Weak

Some words mean almost the same thing, but they are still different. One of the words may be stronger or express more emotion or action. The other may be weaker or express less emotion or action.

Example: I **think** the bus goes to the library. I **know** the bus goes to the library.

Think and know are two similar words, but *know* is stronger, since it has more conviction, than *think*.

**Part I.** Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word that has a stronger meaning that the word in parentheses.

1. She _____ , "Don't answer the phone."
   (said)

2. Carl liked to stay inside during the _____ weather.
   (cold)

3. The man was _____ about the long line at the store.
   (angry)

4. When she woke up, it was _____ .
   (raining)

5. The _____ dog growled at the postman.
   (large)

**Part II.** Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word that has a weaker meaning that the word in parentheses.

1. She _____ , "Don't answer the phone."
   (said)

2. Carl liked to stay inside during the _____ weather.
   (cold)

3. The man was _____ about the long line at the store.
   (angry)

4. When she woke up, it was _____ .
   (raining)

5. The _____ dog growled at the postman.
   (large)

# Shades of Meaning: Strong vs. Weak

Some words mean almost the same thing, but they are still different. One of the words may be stronger or express more emotion or action. The other may be weaker or express less emotion or action.

Example: I **think** the bus goes to the library. I **know** the bus goes to the library.

Think and know are two similar words, but *know* is stronger, since it has more conviction, than *think*.

**Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers**

**Part I.** Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word that has a stronger meaning that the word in parentheses.

1. She _____**screamed**_____ , "Don't answer the phone."
   (said)

2. Carl liked to stay inside during the _____**freezing**_____ weather.
   (cold)

3. The man was _____**furious**_____ about the long line at the store.
   (angry)

4. When she woke up, it was _____**pouring**_____ .
   (raining)

5. The _____**gigantic**_____ dog growled at the postman.
   (large)

**Part II.** Fill in the blank in each sentence with a word that has a weaker meaning that the word in parentheses.

1. She _____**whispered**_____ , "Don't answer the phone."
   (said)

2. Carl liked to stay inside during the _____**cool**_____ weather.
   (cold)

3. The man was _____**cross**_____ about the long line at the store.
   (angry)

4. When she woke up, it was _____**sprinkling**_____ .
   (raining)

5. The _____**big**_____ dog growled at the postman.
   (large)

K12 Reader