

A single word can mean very different things, depending on context. For example, the word *rough* describes different qualities when applied to movement, gems, and cloth. Horseplay is always *rough*. A diamond is *rough* only before it is cut and polished. Wool does not start out *rough* but may end up that way. So, depending on context, *rough* may mean "rowdy," "natural," or "scratchy"!

Like *rough*, many words about appearance and texture lead double lives. For example, three list words answer these riddles:

How is a *dull knife* like a *sharp tongue*? Both are _____.

How is *rock salt* like *bad manners*? Both are _____.

How is our *sun* like a *big smile*? Both are _____.

If the answers have not already come to you, read on.

WORD LIST

blunt
coarse
dense
dingy
iridescent
opaque
radiant
sheen
tinge
transparent

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **blunt** (blŭnt) *adjective* a. Not sharp or pointed; dull-edged.
b. Straightforward, even cutting (as a remark).
verb a. To make dull. b. To weaken.

Related Words *bluntly* *adverb*; *bluntness* *noun*

Example The knife was too *blunt* to slice tomatoes.

2. **coarse** (kôrs) *adjective* a. Not fine in texture. b. Rough; scratchy; harsh.
c. Impolite in manner or speech; crude.

Related Words *coarsely* *adverb*; *coarseness* *noun*

Example "Which kind of sandpaper do you want," asked the salesperson, "extra fine, fine, medium, or *coarse*?"

3. **dense** (dĕns) *adjective* a. Very thick. b. Tightly packed together; crowded. c. Thickheaded; stupid.

Related Words *densely* *adverb*; *density* *noun*

Example Anyone hiking in a *dense* forest should always carry a compass because landmarks are difficult to spot.

4. **dingy** (dĭn'jē) *adjective* a. Dirty; grimy. b. Dull; dreary.

Related Word *dinginess* *noun*

Example The puppy's favorite place to sleep was a cardboard box with a *dingy* old blanket.

1. _____

2. _____

MEMORY CUE: *Coarse* is an adjective. *Course* is a noun: "As the main *course*, we had a delicious salad made from *coarse* wheat."

3. _____

4. _____

5. **iridescent** (ir'ī-dēs'ənt) *adjective* Having shiny and rainbowlike colors. 5. _____

Related Word **iridescence** *noun*

Example Many butterflies have jewel-like, *iridescent* wings.

6. **opaque** (ō-pāk') *adjective* a. Not letting light through. b. Unclear or muddled, as a piece of writing. 6. _____

Related Words **opacity** *noun*; **opaquely** *adverb*

Example Plaster walls, aluminum foil, and heavy window shades are all *opaque*; objects cannot be seen through them.

USAGE NOTE: *Opaque* materials do not always block out all light, but they block out enough so that objects on the other side cannot be identified.

7. **radiant** (rā'dē-ənt) *adjective* a. Giving out light or heat. b. Filled with happiness, joy, or love. c. Glowing; bright. 7. _____

Related Words **radiance** *noun*; **radiantly** *adverb*; **radiate** *verb*; **radiator** *noun*

Example The sun, lamps, hot-water bottles, and heaters are all *radiant* objects.

8. **sheen** (shēn) *noun* Shine; brightness. 8. _____

Example Danny waxed and polished his car until it had a mirrorlike *sheen*.

9. **tinge** (tĭnj) *noun* a. A tint; a trace of color. b. A hint of feeling, such as jealousy, regret, or sadness. *verb* a. To tint. b. To affect slightly. 9. _____

Example The red in that raincoat has a *tinge* of orange.

10. **transparent** (trāns-pār'ənt) *adjective* Letting light through so that objects can be seen clearly on the other side; clear. 10. _____

Related Words **transparency** *noun*; **transparently** *adverb*

Example Window glass, plastic wrap, and sheer curtains are all *transparent*.

EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Decide whether the italicized vocabulary word has been used correctly in the sentence. On the answer line, write *Correct* for correct use and *Incorrect* for incorrect use.

1. The warehouse windows had been painted with an *opaque* paint so that people could not see in. 1. _____
2. Another word for "teen-ager" is *iridescent*. 2. _____
3. "Don't be silly," said Jennifer. "Of *course* I'll be at the party!" 3. _____
4. Silks usually have a brighter *sheen* than wools. 4. _____
5. Jake tried to *blunt* his way through the essay test. 5. _____
6. Carry a map, compass, and extra food if you plan to go hiking in an area with *dense* forest. 6. _____
7. That pinpoint star is actually a *radiant* sphere larger than our own sun! 7. _____
8. Shampoo advertisements usually promise soft, *dingy* hair. 8. _____
9. We could see shadows of fish beneath the almost *transparent* ice in the brook. 9. _____
10. Betty felt a strong *tinge* of pain when she sprained her ankle. 10. _____

EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Decide which form of the vocabulary word in parentheses best completes the sentence. The form given may be correct. Write your answer on the answer line.

1. "Like my hat?" I asked. "Looks silly," Sis said _____. (*blunt*) 1. _____
2. A population _____ of fifty people per square mile is low. (*dense*) 2. _____
3. Chrome has a much higher _____ than rubber. (*sheen*) 3. _____
4. This oil lamp seems to _____ as much heat as light! (*radiant*) 4. _____
5. Is turquoise blue _____ with green or vice versa? (*tinge*) 5. _____
6. Mr. DeHoyos said, "Choose your art project material for _____, not for color." (*opaque*) 6. _____
7. Swearing or other _____ is not allowed. (*coarse*) 7. _____
8. Diamonds are rated for _____ as well as for color, size, and cut. (*transparent*) 8. _____
9. The male peacock's tail feathers have a brilliant _____. (*iridescent*) 9. _____