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:

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

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.

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

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**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

   __________________________

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**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: __________________________
Writing Practice

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

Partner Work

a. They were asked to vacate the
b. He decided to quit smoking.
c. We decided to abandon that camp.

Examples:
a. He decided to quit smoking.
b. They were asked to vacate the

Answers will vary.

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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.