**Inflated Words Hand-Out**

Some words mean almost the same thing but have small differences between the meanings of each. Understanding the small differences between similar words lets you appreciate the shades of meaning between words or phrases.

Two words might have a similar meaning, but one word’s meaning might be stronger or more forceful than the other word’s meaning. For example, *sad* and *miserable* both have similar meanings. But the word *miserable* suggests a much more powerful feeling than the word *sad* does. Below are word lists of synonyms for common words that we tend to overuse.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mad** | | **Nice** | | **Good** | | **Bad** | |
| Cross  Furious  Angry  Grumpy  Frustrated  Fuming  Enraged  Annoyed  Livid  Outraged  Perturbed  Rabid | Raging  Wrathful  Belligerent  Bitter  Caustic  Indignant  Infuriated  Irate  Seething  Smoldering  Riled  Ticked | Enjoyable  Pleasurable  Thoughtful  Courteous  Lovely  Likeable  Pleasing  Gracious  Congenial  Cordially  Admirable  Considerate | Agreeable  Amiable  Charming  Mannered  Inviting  Kind  Delightful  Friendly  Considerate  Decent  Polite  Acceptable | Excellent  Amazing  Wonderful  Pleasant  Marvelous  Exceptional  Fantastic  Super  Outstanding  Terrific  Splendid  Stupendous | Moral  Upright  Just  Fair  Pure  Decent  Worthy  Esteemed  Favorable  Solid  Honest  Honorable | Awful  Rotten  Naughty  Mean  Dreadful  Nasty  Wicked  Lousy  Terrible  Unpleasant  Disagreeable  Wretched | Atrocious  Poor  Erring  Evil  Harsh  Vile  Villainous  Foul  Corrupt  False  Unbecoming  Nefarious |
| **Happy** | | **Sad** | | **Laughed** | | **Like** | |
| Cheerful  Delighted  Pleased  Glad  Joyful  Ecstatic  Content  Jovial  Amused  Merry Thrilled  Elated | Mirthful  Gleeful  Jolly  Overjoyed  Gratified  Bright  Blissful  Charmed  Satisfied  Euphoric  Rhapsodic  Tickled | Depressed  Gloomy  Miserable  Cheerless  Unhappy  Forlorn  Sorrowful  Upset  Downcast  Downtrodden  Tearful  Somber | Glum  Pensive  Desolate  Morose  Melancholy  Troubled  Bitter  Grieving  Weeping  Blue  Crestfallen  Despondent | Giggled  Chuckled  Roared  Howled  Whooped  Snickered  Guffawed  Grinned  Cackled  Bellowed  Chortled  Shrieked | Hee-Hawed  Screamed  Tittered  Twittered  Sniggered  Broken up  Cracked up  Split one’s sides | Admire  Approve  Adore  Treasure  Fancy  Marvel  Appreciate  Respect  Cherish  Fond  Desire  Enjoy | Favor  Cotton to  Delight in  Dig  Relish  Revel in  Covet  Crave  Savor  Rejoice  Love  Revere |
| **Big** | | **Little** | | **Ran** | | **Walked** | |
| Huge  Giant  Gigantic  Enormous  Large  Massive  Colossal  Immense  Bulky  Hefty  Tremendous  Jumbo | Consequential  Earthshaking  Earth-shattering  Eventful  Historic  Major  Meaningful  Monumental  Momentous  Considerable  Voluminous  Vast | Small  Tiny  Petite  Miniature  Teeny  Itsy-Bitsy  Miniscule  Mini  Minute  Microscopic  Skimpy  Wee | Diminutive  Half-pint  Infinitesimal  Little-bitty  Pygmy  Trivial  Slight  Smallish  Dwarfish  Puny  Negligible  Trifling | Bolted  Sped  Hurried  Sprinted  Jogged  Rushed  Galloped  Hustled  Skipped  Raced  Dashed  Fled | Scampered  Trotted  Bound  Loped  Blasted  Bustled  Careened  Whisked  Zipped  Zoomed  Jetted  Belted | Strolled  Sauntered  Tiptoed  Trotted  Marched  Glided  Strutted  Shuffled  Crept  Treated  Hiked  Paraded | Ambled  Shambled  Crawled  Dallied  Dillydallied  Dragged  Lagged  Lingered  Tarried  Lumbered  Plodded  Trudged |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |
| **Said** | | **Pretty** | | **Looked** | | **Scared** | |
| Commented  Replied  Remarked  Declared  Stated  Exclaimed  Shouted  Whispered  Announced  Responded  Boasted  Explained | Mentioned  Gasped  Murmured  Proclaimed  Articulated  Enunciated  Spoke  Stated  Told  Uttered  Broadcasted  Spluttered | Beautiful  Gorgeous  Appealing  Cute  Lovely  Exquisite  Attractive  Elegant  Handsome  Stunning  Fair  Dazzling | Agreeable  Darling  Delectable  Dreamy  Aesthetic  Bonny  Comely  Fetching  Knockout  Ravishing  Alluring  Charming | Gazed  Examined  Glanced  Viewed  Observed  Peeked  Stared  Watched  Inspected  Spied  Studied  Noticed | Caught  Beheld  Discerned  Distinguished  Espied  Regarded  Perceived  Spotted  Noted  Witnessed  Glimpsed  Scrutinized | Afraid  Frightened  Spooked  Horrified  Startled  Fearful  Petrified  Anxious  Aghast  Alarmed  Terrified  Shaken | Horror-struck  Hysterical  Shocked  Terrorized  Fearsome  Shrinking  Fainthearted  Timid  Timorous  Tremulous  Apprehensive  Cowardly |
| **Went** | | **Great** | |  | |  | |
| Scurried  Journeyed  Skedaddled  Skipped out  Clambered  Split  Paraded  Progressed  Drifted  Tore out  Raced  Ambled | Gallivanted  Rushed  Ventured  Vanished  Trekked  Traveled  Traipsed  Scampered  Sauntered  Hastened  Withdrew  Wandered | Amazing  Arresting  Astonishing  Astounding  Awe-Inspiring  Breathtaking  Captivating  Estimable  Exceptional  Exquisite  Fascinating  Glorious | Impressive  Incomparable  Tremendous  Unique  Unparalleled  Wondrous  Sensational  Rapturous  Praiseworthy  Phenomenal  Noteworthy  Miraculous |  |  |  |  |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Scurried  Journeyed  Skedaddled  Skipped out  Clambered  Split  Paraded  Progressed  Drifted  Tore out  Raced  Ambled |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Scurried  Journeyed  Skedaddled  Skipped out  Clambered  Split  Paraded  Progressed  Drifted  Tore out  Raced  Ambled |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |