

Fine Line Meanings Answer Key

Accept reasonable wording if distinctions are accurate and clearly expressed.

1. **justify.** *Justify* means provide sufficient reasoning to support a decision; *explain* means describe how or why something occurred.
2. **isolate.** *Isolate* means control variables for study; *separate* means move apart physically or conceptually.
3. **critical.** *Critical* implies analytical evaluation; *negative* implies unfavorable judgment without analysis.
4. **resolution.** *Resolution* implies formal closure; *decision* is a general choice.
5. **concise.** *Concise* emphasizes efficiency and completeness; *brief* emphasizes short length only.
6. **tentative.** *Tentative* suggests cautious openness to revision; *uncertain* suggests lack of confidence or clarity.
7. **imply.** *Imply* means suggest indirectly through wording; *suggest* can be direct or indirect.
8. **unintended.** *Unintended* emphasizes lack of intention; *unexpected* emphasizes surprise.

Teacher's Guide

- Skill focus: Distinguishing **fine-grained semantic differences** between advanced near-synonyms.
- Time: 10 to 15 minutes; designed to fit one page.
- What to assess:
 - Accurate word selection.
 - Clear explanation that goes beyond basic definition.
- Differentiation:
 - Support: Allow students to use sentence frames such as "____ focuses on ___, while ____ emphasizes ___."
 - Challenge: Require students to write a second sentence where the other word would be correct.
- Engagement:
 - Pair justify: Students compare explanations and vote on the most precise distinction.
- Extension:
 - Writing transfer: Students revise a paragraph of their own writing, replacing two vague words with more precise near-synonyms and explaining the change.