

Name _____

Intensity Ladder Answer Key

1. whisper, speak, yell, shout
2. cool, chilly, cold, icy
3. irritated, annoyed, angry, furious
4. smirk, giggle, laugh, roar
5. moist, damp, soaked, drenched

(Teachers may accept slight variations when students can justify their reasoning. Intensity can be subjective across dialects.)

Teacher's Guide

- **Using this worksheet**
 - Model one ladder on the board to show how intensity increases step by step.
 - Encourage students to talk through why one word feels stronger or weaker than another.
 - Remind students that shades of meaning help writers choose precise vocabulary.
 - Allow students to reference a thesaurus to compare word strength.
- **Engagement ideas**
 - Turn it into a movement activity by placing word cards around the room and letting students line up physically in order of intensity.
 - Have pairs discuss their rankings and defend their choices with evidence.
 - Challenge students to revise weak sentences by replacing bland verbs and adjectives with stronger choices.