

Power Word Ladder Answer Key

- 1 → glad → happy → delighted
- 2 → big → large → huge
- 3 → mad → angry → furious
- 4 → scared → afraid → terrified
- 5 → chilly → cold → freezing (*acceptable variation*)
- 6 → amusing → funny → hilarious
- 7 → sleepy → tired → exhausted
- 8 → clever → smart → brilliant
- 9 → unhappy → sad → heartbroken
- 10 → pretty → lovely → beautiful

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** This worksheet builds **vocabulary precision** by helping students recognize **intensity levels in synonyms**, an essential skill for nuanced writing and emotional expression.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For **younger students**, discuss each word's "strength" using emotion scales (e.g., how *angry* vs. *furious* feels).
 - For **older students**, encourage them to justify their order choices using real-world examples or context clues.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Play a "**Synonym Thermometer**" game: students move words up or down on an imaginary thermometer based on their intensity.
 - Use expressive reading—students say each word louder or softer to match its emotional strength.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Have students find or create new synonym trios (e.g., *walk* → *jog* → *sprint*).
 - Challenge advanced learners to write short sentences using all three levels of a synonym group to show tonal progression.