

# Word Learning Strategy: Precise and Flexible

**Synonyms** are words having the same meaning but the intensity of the word varies.

The term used in the MS-CCRS for the intensity of those words is “**shades of meaning**”.

Shades of meaning is used interchangeably with the term “**nuanced meaning**”.

**Example:**

**warm, hot, boiling, and sweltering**

These words are all used to describe the temperature of a noun. Each of these words have a precise definition usage, though they all are related to a higher degree of temperature.

Sometimes we hear people use these words to describe something that does not deal with temperature.

**Example:**

**“I was boiling mad.”**

The use of a word in a way different from its precise meaning is called “**flexible**” usage.

Vocabulary word is massive.

1. Teacher asks students for the synonyms of the word.



2. Class/group discusses the “shades of meaning” of each word.
3. Students brainstorm ways these words may be used in flexible ways.