



Are They  
**Tall** or **High**?



# Opposites

The opposite of **tall** is...

low short

The opposite of **high** is...

low short

# Opposites

The opposite of **tall** is...

~~low~~ **short**

The opposite of **high** is...

**low** short

# Measurements

When we talk about  
measurements, we usually  
use

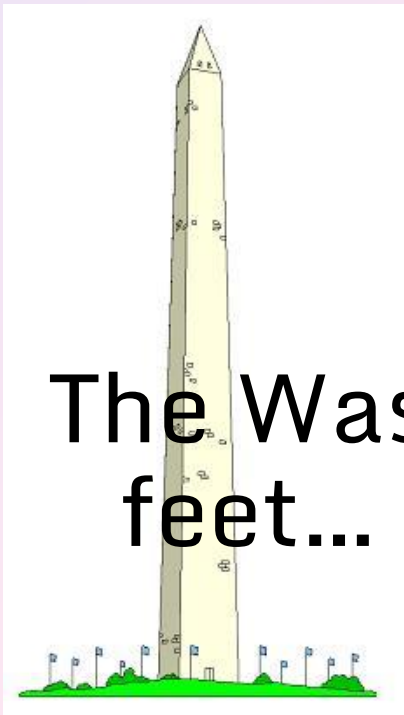
**tall** for people

**high** for things

# Measurements

My sister is only 4 feet...

tall high



The Washington Monument is 555 feet...

tall high

# Measurements

My sister is only 4 feet...



**tall** ~~high~~



The Washington Monument is 555 feet...

~~tall~~ **high**

# Describing: One way to think of it

1. Native English-speakers tend to use “**tall**”  
for

People

Trees

Multi-floored buildings

A few other things that are taller than they are  
wide

Otherwise they prefer to use “**high**”.

2. And they tend to use “**high**” to talk about  
distance above the ground.

# Describing: One way to think of it



**tall**  
buildings

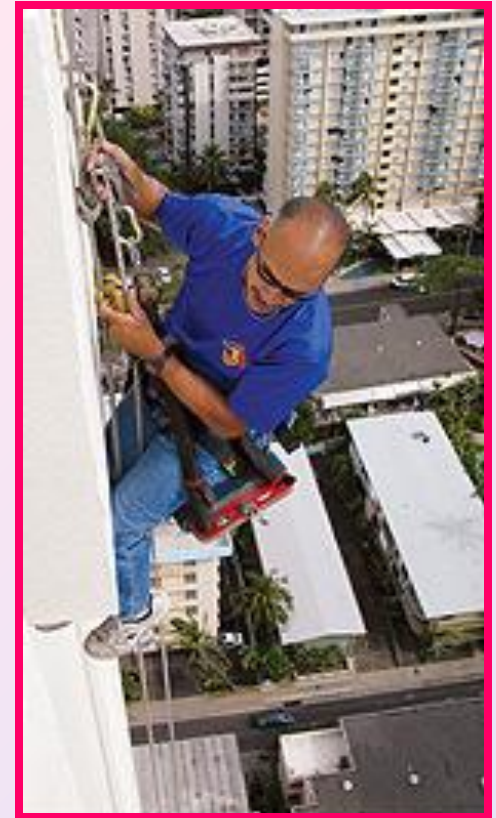
**high**  
clouds





# Describing: One way to think of it

This man is  
**high** on a **tall** building.



# Describing: One way to think of it



The boy is **higher** than his dad, but not **taller**.

# Describing: Another way to think of it

Native-speakers tend to use

**tall**

when part of the object touches the  
ground

**high**

when the object doesn't touch the  
ground

# For example



The poles are **tall**. (They touch the ground.)

The wires are **high**. (They don't touch the ground.)

# Your turn



The kite is flying \_\_\_\_ in the sky.

high    tall

# Your turn



The kite is flying \_\_\_\_ in the sky.

high

~~tall~~



She is much \_\_\_\_\_  
than he is.

taller

higher



She is much \_\_\_\_\_  
than he is.

**taller**      ~~higher~~



The tree is...

tall high

Its branches are...

tall high



The tree is...

tall ~~high~~

Its branches are...

~~tall~~ high





That is a \_\_\_ladder.  
tall high

It's not safe to stand on  
the \_\_\_\_\_ step of a ladder.

tallest highest





That is a \_\_\_ ladder.

tall high

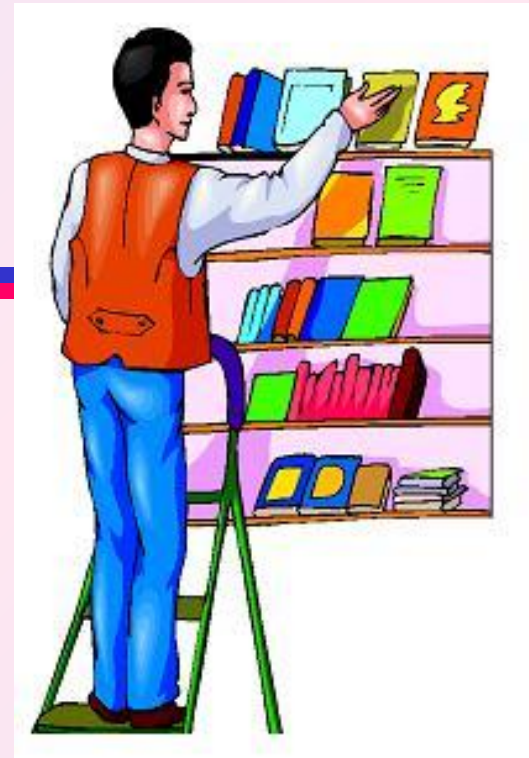
It's not safe to stand on  
the \_\_\_\_\_ step of a ladder.

~~tallest~~

highest

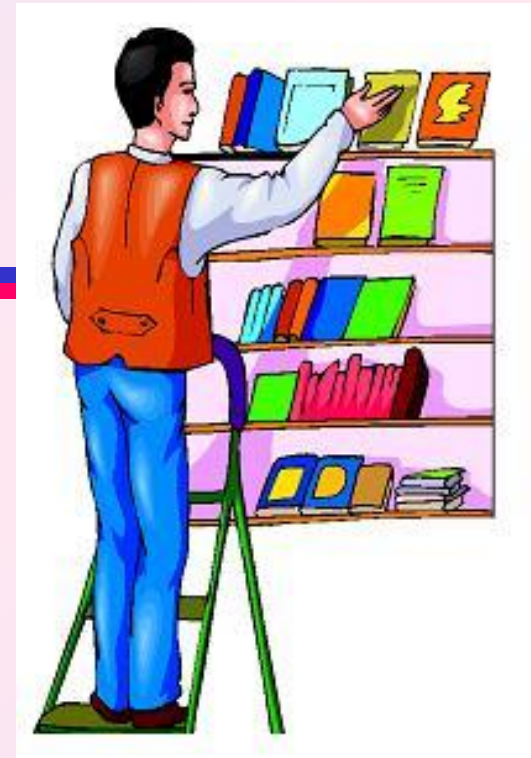


That is a \_\_\_\_ ladder.  
short low



He is standing on the \_\_\_\_ rung of the  
ladder.  
shortest lowest

He is getting a book from the \_\_\_\_ shelf.  
tallest highest



That is a \_\_\_\_ ladder.

**short** ~~low~~

He is standing on the \_\_\_\_ rung of the ladder.

shortest **lowest**

He is getting a book from the \_\_\_\_ shelf.

tallest **highest**

# Another meaning for “high”

“High” can also be used to describe a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



So, a person can be “tall” or “high”, but there are 3 different meanings.

# Tall or high?



He is \_\_\_\_.



He is \_\_\_\_.



He is \_\_\_\_.



# Tall or high?



He is **tall**.

*(physical stature)*



He is **high**.

*(drunk)*



He is **high**.

*(on the pole)*