



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

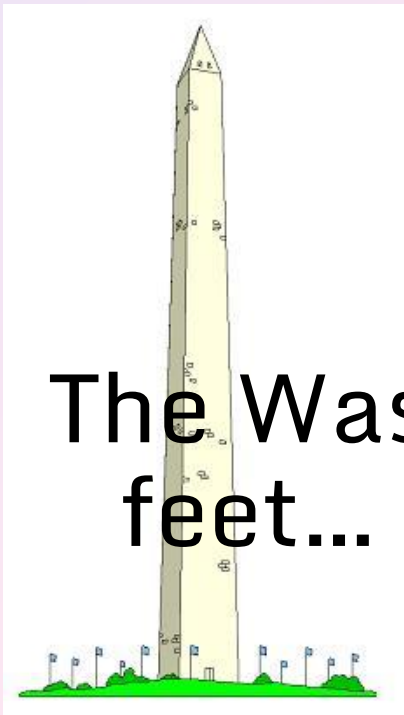
tall for people

high for things

Measurements

My sister is only 4 feet...

tall high



The Washington Monument is 555 feet...

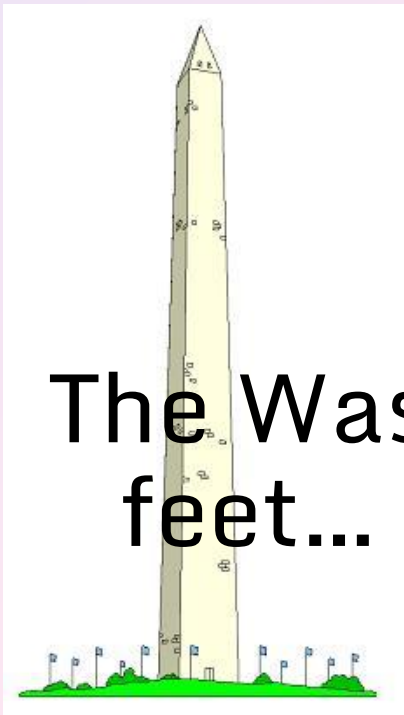
tall high

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



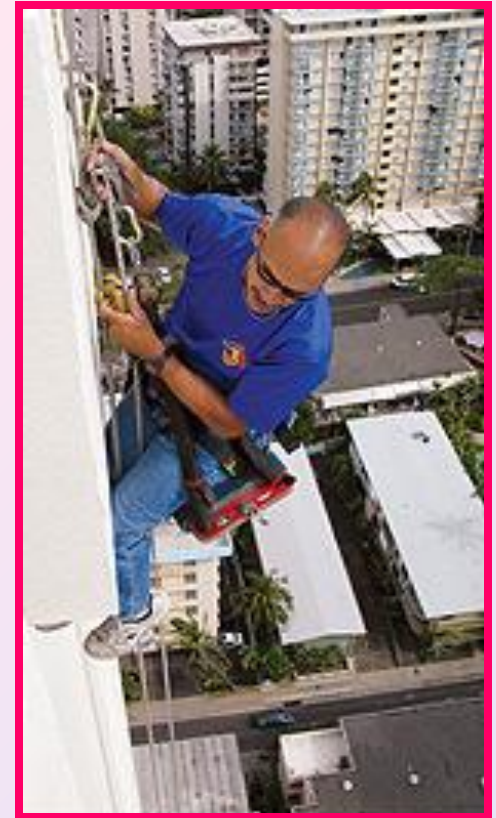
tall
buildings

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

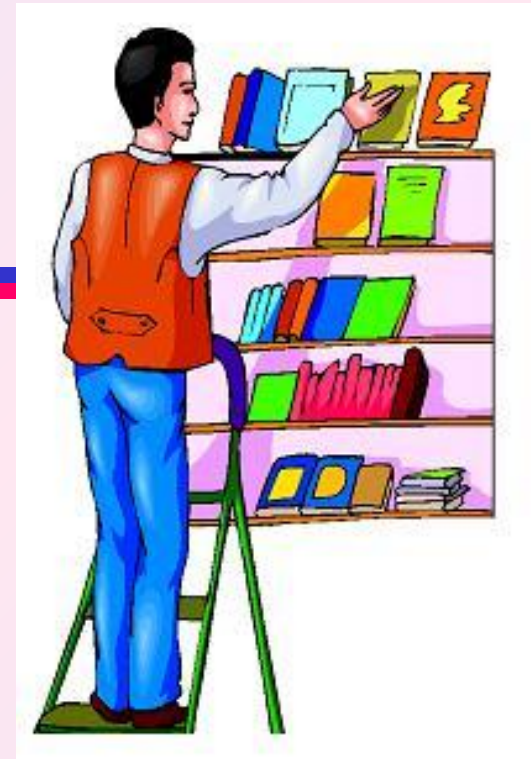
It's not safe to stand on
the _____ step of a ladder.

~~tallest~~

highest

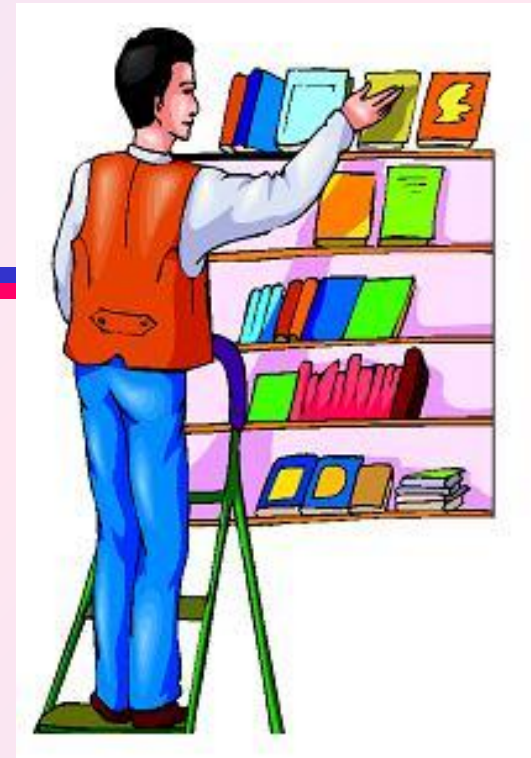


That is a ____ ladder.
short low



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)