

Word for Word

***Weighed* or *weighted*: A weighty question**



The terms *weighed* and *weighted* have similar meanings but different uses in writing.

Weighed is the past tense form of the verb *weigh*, which most often means “to ascertain the heaviness of” or “to have a certain heaviness.”¹

Examples:

We weighed the excised mass.

The excised mass weighed 20 g.

Weighed can also mean that one has considered various factors when making a decision, or that a factor was considered particularly important in making the decision.¹

Examples:

We weighed the options of sending out our surveys via email, text, or mail.

The confounding influence of comorbidities weighed heavily in our decision to exclude that patient group from our analysis.

Weighted, in contrast, is an adjective used to describe an object or concept. *Weighted* can describe either an object “made heavy” in a physical sense or data generated with extra consideration given to a certain factor.²

Examples:

The weighted blanket helped ease the patient’s anxiety.
We multiplied the symptom severity score by the patient-reported symptom interference score to get the patient-weighted score, which ensured that patient-reported outcomes were the primary factor in our clinical decision-making for each patient.

References

1. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/weighed>. Accessed February 23, 2021.
2. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/weighted>. Accessed February 23, 2021.

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