

The **denotative** meaning of a word is its **literal** dictionary definition.

▶ Denotative meanings are **neutral**.

The **connotative** meaning of a word refers to associated **feelings** or **ideas**.

▶ Connotative meanings are **positive** or **negative**.

**Context clues** can be used to determine a suggested meaning.

	Word	Meaning	Sentence
<b>Denotative neutral</b>	<b>thin</b>	not big; lean	Jim is a <u>tall</u> , <b>thin</b> basketball player.
<b>Connotative positive</b>	<b>slim</b>	attractively thin	The dress made the lady look <b>slim</b> .
<b>Connotative negative</b>	<b>scrawny</b>	too thin, unattractive	She was so <b>scrawny</b> she looked <u>sick</u> .

### CFU

Which sentence has a denotative meaning? Explain.

- A After our cool spell, the weather was hot today.
- B Four days of triple-digit heat left us sweltering.
- C The gentle breeze gave us a mild day.

Which sentence has a positive connotation? Explain.

- A After our cool spell, the weather was hot today.
- B Four days of triple-digit heat left us sweltering.
- C The gentle breeze gave us a mild day.

Which sentence has a negative connotation? Explain.

- A After our cool spell, the weather was hot today.
- B Four days of triple-digit heat left us sweltering.
- C The gentle breeze gave us a mild day.

In your own words, what is the difference between denotative and connotative meanings of words?

1. Scan words and meanings.
2. Read each sentence and identify clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. (underline)
3. Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings. (write)

1.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>inactive</b>	not doing anything, not working, not moving
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>relaxed</b>	feeling calm, comfortable, not worried
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>lazy</b>	not liking work or physical activity

- A** People who sit at a desk in an office every day are very \_\_\_\_\_.
- B** After stretching for 10 minutes, the yoga student was very \_\_\_\_\_.
- C** Christopher was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he never did chores and never played sports.
- D** Georgia and Amber have a very \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle; they rarely go to the gym or exercise.
- E** Adam is very \_\_\_\_\_ when he goes fishing because he can leave his worries behind.

2.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>curious</b>	wanting to know about something
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>inquisitive</b>	wanting to find out more about many different things
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>nosy</b>	wanting to know about things that don't concern you

- A** The scientist's \_\_\_\_\_ nature led him to keep asking questions about how things worked.
- B** The teacher was \_\_\_\_\_ why so many students were late to class, and asked them what happened.
- C** The detective investigated so many details of the suspect's life that he was thought to be extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
- D** Asking questions is a good habit, but digging into private things is being \_\_\_\_\_.
- E** The job of newspaper reporters is to ask questions about everything; they have to be constantly \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Scan words and meanings.
2. Read each sentence and identify clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. (underline)
3. Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings. (write)

<b>3.</b>	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>judge</b>	to form or give an opinion about someone or something
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>evaluate</b>	to determine the worth, value, or quality of something
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>criticize</b>	to express your disapproval of someone or something

- A** The teacher will \_\_\_\_\_ the quality of the students' writing and give a grade.
- B** Sgt. Matthews uses a loud strong voice to \_\_\_\_\_ the new army recruits for their behavior.
- C** Miriam was asked by her friends to \_\_\_\_\_ quickly which ice cream was better.
- D** The baseball umpire has to quickly \_\_\_\_\_ whether the pitch was a ball or strike.
- E** Tim had to \_\_\_\_\_ whether it was more valuable to get a computer or a tablet.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>happy</b>	satisfied, not worried
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>elated</b>	extremely happy or excited
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>wild</b>	behave in a very excited, uncontrolled way

- A** When the team won the baseball championship, the players ran all over the field in a \_\_\_\_\_ way .
- B** Elisa was \_\_\_\_\_ when she received straight A's on her report card.
- C** Alicia and Mai were \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the beach every Saturday.
- D** At the Justin B. rock concert, the fans were so \_\_\_\_\_ they jumped up and down for an hour.
- E** Matthew was \_\_\_\_\_ to get a new car for his high school graduation.

**Skill Closure**

1. Scan words and meanings.
2. Read each sentence and identify clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. (underline)
3. Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings. (write)

<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>persistent</b>	continuing to do something, even if it is difficult
<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>determined</b>	having a strong desire to do something, not letting anyone stop you
<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>pushy</b>	someone who does everything they can to get what they want from others

- A** Eric was \_\_\_\_\_ in lifting weights; in three weeks he added 50 pounds to the barbell.
- B** Myra had a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude as she always told people what to do.
- C** Edison was \_\_\_\_\_ to find a way to make electricity work.
- D** People were \_\_\_\_\_ to meet President Kennedy’s goal of going to the moon by the end of the decade.

**Concept Closure**

**Write an explanation.**

Ulysses thought the sentence below used “scrawny” in a connotative negative way. Was he correct or incorrect? Explain your answer.

Henry is such a **scrawny** kid he barely can throw the ball past first base.

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<b>Denotative neutral</b>	thin	not big; lean
<b>Connotative positive</b>	slim	attractively thin
<b>Connotative negative</b>	scrawny	too thin, unattractive

**Word Bank**

neutral  
 literal  
 positive  
 negative  
 feelings  
 associated

**Summary Closure**

**What did you learn today about distinguishing between denotative and connotative meanings?**

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Scan words and meanings. Underline clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. Determine which word fills the blank.

1.

<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>upfront</b>	honest and straightforward
<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>candid</b>	outspoken, open and sincere
<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>blunt</b>	abrupt in speech, insensitive

- A \_\_\_\_\_ people always tell the truth.
- B He was very \_\_\_\_\_ discussing the troubles in his past.
- C It is good to give employees \_\_\_\_\_ feedback so they know the areas to improve in.
- D Sometimes Mike is too \_\_\_\_\_ and hurts people's feelings by speaking before thinking.
- E Instead of planning every word of an interview, Sam is consistently very informal and \_\_\_\_\_.

2.

<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>old</b>	something that has existed or been used for a long time
<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>time-tested</b>	having proved valid, workable, or useful over a long span of time
<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>out-of-date</b>	something no longer useful or effective as something more modern exists

- A Even though he owns a computer, Leonard still likes to use his \_\_\_\_\_ typewriter.
- B Practicing yoga is a \_\_\_\_\_ way to get good stretching and flexibility exercise.
- C The rocking chair is an \_\_\_\_\_ type of furniture that relates to the cradle.
- D Reward and punishment are two \_\_\_\_\_ methods of motivation.
- E Horseback riding is pretty much \_\_\_\_\_ now that we have cars for transportation.

Scan words and meanings. Underline clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. Determine which word fills the blank.

1.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>quiet</b>	not saying much or not saying anything
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>tranquil</b>	pleasantly calm and peaceful
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>withdrawn</b>	unusually reserved, introverted, or shy

**A** The big tackle on the football team did all his talking on the field; everywhere else, he was just a \_\_\_\_\_ guy.

**B** Adam was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he didn't have many friends at the school.

**C** No matter how hectic things got before Christmas, Jan's mother remained \_\_\_\_\_.

**D** Barbara was very \_\_\_\_\_ after she broke up with her boyfriend; she didn't interact much with anyone.

**E** Jennifer and Jorge found a \_\_\_\_\_ spot in the mountains where they could sit and enjoy nature.

2.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>focused</b>	to give special attention to something
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>absorbed</b>	to involve the full attention of; to engage fully
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>fixated</b>	always thinking or talking about one particular thing

**A** Maria was so totally \_\_\_\_\_ in baking a cake for her mother's birthday that she didn't notice the time.

**B** In Congress, the politician \_\_\_\_\_ on the general issue of immigration.

**C** Congressman Withers was annoyingly \_\_\_\_\_ on every single challenge to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

**D** Playing video games \_\_\_\_\_ nearly all of Luke's attention every day.

**E** Rap songs, rap dances, rap culture – Jessica was completely \_\_\_\_\_ on everything rap.

Scan words and meanings. Underline clue words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. Determine which word fills the blank.

1.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>conservative</b>	tending to be moderate or cautious
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>thrifty</b>	using money carefully and wisely
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>miserly</b>	not liking to spend money

- A** My friend Jo figures out how to get the best bargains; she is very \_\_\_\_\_.
- B** Scrooge is the name of a \_\_\_\_\_ character who liked to hoard his money.
- C** Teens don't make a lot of money so they have to be very \_\_\_\_\_ about spending it.
- D** \_\_\_\_\_ people shop on eBay because they are usually looking for the best deals.
- E** Maria is very \_\_\_\_\_ with her energy; she doesn't wear herself out like other teens.

2.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>house</b>	a building in which people live; residence for human beings
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>mansion</b>	a very large house
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>shack</b>	a small building that has not been built very well

- A** Arturo and Josh spent the summer learning to remodel a tiny wooden \_\_\_\_\_.
- B** My best friend Teresa lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ down the street.
- C** My new friend Monika lives in a 6-bedroom \_\_\_\_\_ on the other side of town.
- D** The TV show *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* gives tours of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the stars.
- E** When I visit other countries, I often see poor people living in a \_\_\_\_\_ on the hillside.

Scan words and meanings. Underline words that suggest the meaning that completes the sentence. Determine which word fills the blank.

1.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>proud</b>	someone pleased or satisfied with themselves or their achievements
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>confident</b>	sure that you can do things well or deal with situations successfully
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>arrogant</b>	someone who thinks they are better than other people

**A** Star halfback Roy Gray was \_\_\_\_\_ of himself for playing football and keeping his grades up.

**B** Mario is an \_\_\_\_\_ guy who always walks around giving orders to others.

**C** The sophomore class was \_\_\_\_\_ of its ability to raise \$2000 for charity last year.

**D** Kathryn had a good voice and was \_\_\_\_\_ she would get the part in the next musical.

**E** Diana was \_\_\_\_\_ she could pay for her cell phone each month because she worked two jobs.

2.	<b>Denotative Neutral</b>	<b>instruct</b>	to furnish with information; inform
	<b>Connotative Positive</b>	<b>recommend</b>	to advise someone to do something; mention favorably
	<b>Connotative Negative</b>	<b>lecture</b>	to talk seriously to someone to criticize or warn them

**A** Your new boss will \_\_\_\_\_ you on how to operate the ice cream machine.

**B** Blaine said he could \_\_\_\_\_ the food at the new restaurant near the school.

**C** Ava was crying because she got a \_\_\_\_\_ from a policeman along with a traffic ticket.

**D** The teacher will \_\_\_\_\_ the students on not using cell phones in class and \_\_\_\_\_ them to turn off all phones.

**E** Manoj will \_\_\_\_\_ Shriya on how to use the computer and \_\_\_\_\_ she get one for home.