

The **denotative** meaning of a word is its **literal**₂ dictionary definition.

► **Denotative** meanings are **neutral**.

The **connotative** meaning of a word refers to associated₃ **feelings** or **ideas**.

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

► **Context clues**₄ can be used to determine a suggested meaning.

	Word	Meaning	Sentence
Denotative neutral	thin	not big; lean	Jim is a <u>tall</u> , thin basketball player.
Connotative positive	slim	attractively thin	The dress made the lady look slim .
Connotative negative	scrawny	too thin, unattractive	She was so scrawny 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.	Denotative Neutral	inactive	not doing anything, not working, not moving
	Connotative Positive	relaxed	feeling calm, comfortable, not worried
	Connotative Negative	lazy	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.	Denotative Neutral	curious	wanting to know about something
	Connotative Positive	inquisitive	wanting to find out more about many different things
	Connotative Negative	nosy	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)

3.	Denotative Neutral	judge	to form or give an opinion about someone or something
	Connotative Positive	evaluate	to determine the worth, value, or quality of something
	Connotative Negative	criticize	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.

4.	Denotative Neutral	happy	satisfied, not worried
	Connotative Positive	elated	extremely happy or excited
	Connotative Negative	wild	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)

Denotative Neutral	persistent	continuing to do something, even if it is difficult
Connotative Positive	determined	having a strong desire to do something, not letting anyone stop you
Connotative Negative	pushy	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.

Denotative neutral	thin	not big; lean
Connotative positive	slim	attractively thin
Connotative negative	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?

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

1.

Denotative Neutral	upfront	honest and straightforward
Connotative Positive	candid	outspoken, open and sincere
Connotative Negative	blunt	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.

Denotative Neutral	old	something that has existed or been used for a long time
Connotative Positive	time-tested	having proved valid, workable, or useful over a long span of time
Connotative Negative	out-of-date	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.

Denotative Neutral	quiet	not saying much or not saying anything
Connotative Positive	tranquil	pleasantly calm and peaceful
Connotative Negative	withdrawn	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.

Denotative Neutral	focused	to give special attention to something
Connotative Positive	absorbed	to involve the full attention of; to engage fully
Connotative Negative	fixated	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 2nd 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.	Denotative Neutral	conservative	tending to be moderate or cautious
	Connotative Positive	thrifty	using money carefully and wisely
	Connotative Negative	miserly	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.	Denotative Neutral	house	a building in which people live; residence for human beings
	Connotative Positive	mansion	a very large house
	Connotative Negative	shack	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.	Denotative Neutral	proud	someone pleased or satisfied with themselves or their achievements
	Connotative Positive	confident	sure that you can do things well or deal with situations successfully
	Connotative Negative	arrogant	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.	Denotative Neutral	instruct	to furnish with information; inform
	Connotative Positive	recommend	to advise someone to do something; mention favorably
	Connotative Negative	lecture	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.