

PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

CONNOTATION &

Denotation

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How would you define
the word:

GRAY
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GRAY

a color that is a mixture of black and
white?

or

somber, sad, dreary,
cloudy, dull, drab, depressing?

Both are right!

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Words can have two meanings...
a **literal** one and a **suggestive** one.

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Connotations are the mental connections we make with certain words, although they might not be their original, intended meaning.

Denotations are the literal, dictionary definitions.

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What suggested meanings does
the word **HOME** entail?

It's more than just the territory you reside. It's
where your family lives, your pets, and where
you host traditions.

It connotes LOVE, COMFORT, CLOSENESS.

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Think about the word: **CLEAN**

Denotation: free from dirt or stains.

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What is the connotation of the word clean in the following sentence?

Jason's dad is a nutritionist and so they only eat **clean** food.

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WORD CHOICE MATTERS!

Which bracelet is cute and which one is elegant?



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Two words with similar denotations
can have different connotations.

Cute = attractive in a pretty or
endearing way.

Elegant = pleasingly pretty and stylish in
appearance or manner.

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Words can have positive, negative,
or neutral connotations.

YOUNG, YOUTHFUL, JUVENILE

Look at the synonymous words above.

Which one is Positive? Negative? Neutral?

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CONNOTATIONS:

Young = neutral (not bad or good, objective)

Youthful = positive (full of life, happy)

Juvenile = negative (troublesome, immature)

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PRACTICE SOME MORE!

POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL?

Janie was **simple**; she liked her French fries without ketchup.

Janie was **plain**; she liked her French fries without ketchup.

Janie was **dull**; she liked her French fries without ketchup.

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POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL?

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Justin was **confident** that he would win the game.

Justin was **cocky** thinking he would win the game.

Justin was **sure** that their team would win the game.

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POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL?

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Joe **demolished** his wooden shed.

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Joe **knocked** down his wooden shed.

Joe **disassembled** his wooden shed.

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POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL?

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She had a **colorful** personality.

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She had an **unusual** personality.

She had a **unique** personality.

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POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL?

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The governor **directed** that flags be lowered to half-staff.

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The governor **requested** that flags be lowered to half-staff.

The governor **commanded** that flags be lowered to half-staff.

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reckless

thoughtful

antisocial

bossy

easygoing

cheap

lazy

youthful

childish

original

refreshing

bargain

reserved

stubborn

aroma

determined

busy

careful

helpful

attentive

social

jealous

guarded

chivalrous

Teacher Guide

Part 1: Review PowerPoint notes and practice with students.

PowerPoint Answers: positive, negative, or neutral?

Janie was **simple**; she liked her French fries without ketchup. **positive**

Janie was **plain**; she liked her French fries without ketchup. **neutral**

Janie was **dull**; she liked her French fries without ketchup. **negative**

Justin was **confident** that he would win the game. **positive**

Justin was **cocky** thinking he would win the game. **negative**

Justin was **sure** that their team would win the game. **neutral**

Joe **demolished** his wooden shed. **negative**

Joe **knocked** down his wooden shed. **neutral**

Joe **disassembled** his wooden shed. **positive**

She had a **colorful** personality. **positive**

She had an **unusual** personality. **negative**

She had a **unique** personality. **neutral**

The governor **directed** that flags be lowered to half-staff. **neutral**

The governor **requested** that flags be lowered to half-staff. **positive**

The governor **commanded** that flags be lowered to half-staff. **negative**

Part 2: Print out word cards ahead of time; make sure you print enough for several groups. Distribute the words into plastic bags for students. Divide students into groups and give each group a bag. Ask students to separate the words based on connotation. They should have three columns: positive, negative, and neutral. For additional practice, ask groups to write an original sentence for 10 words that demonstrate the connotation.

Sorting Cards Answer Guide

Some answers will vary.

Negative

reckless, antisocial, childish, bossy, lazy, cheap, stubborn, jealous

Positive

thoughtful, youthful, refreshing, bargain, aroma, determined, helpful, chivalrous

Neutral

easygoing, original, reserved, busy, careful, attentive, social, guarded