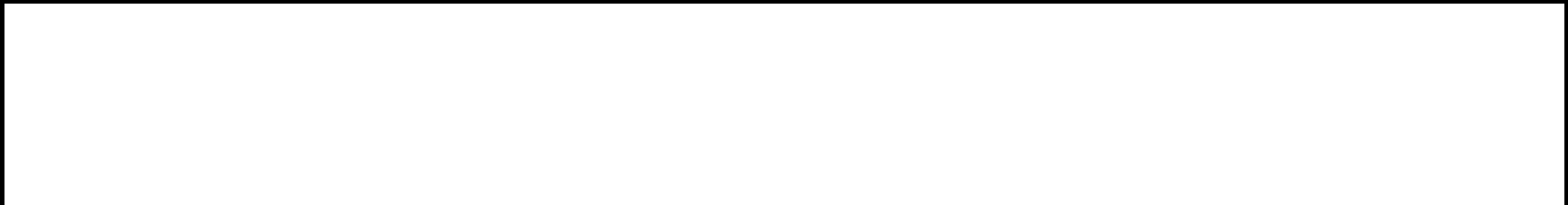


Connotation and Denotation

“Connotation and denotation are two principal methods of describing the meanings of words. Connotation refers to the wide array of positive and negative associations that most words naturally carry with them, whereas denotation is the precise, literal definition of a word that might be found in a dictionary.”—csun.edu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRt1NOsJJQo>



“Denotation is the dictionary definition of the word. It is what the word technically means.

Connotation is the feeling, emotion, cultural implication, or overtone associated with the word. Connotations may not appear in a dictionary, yet they are equally important to understanding and using the word.

As words change and shift in meaning over time, connotations will move much faster than denotations. The dictionary lags behind contemporary social norms of how we view language and what words are acceptable to be used and what words are not.

Different cultures will find different words offensive, not necessarily because of the denotation, but because of the connotation. Connotation is often culturally and socially dependent.”—Lisa Van Germert

Whole class practice activity. Analyze the example of the connotative and denotative meaning of home.

Example: Home

You may live in a house, but we live in a home. If you were to look up the words house and home in a dictionary, you would find that both words have approximately the same meaning- "a dwelling place." However, the speaker in the sentence above suggests that home has an additional meaning. Aside from the strict dictionary definition, or denotation, many people associate such things as comfort, love, security, or privacy with a home but do not necessarily make the same associations with a house. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of a home? of a house? Why do you think that real-estate advertisers use the word home more frequently than house? The various feelings, images, and memories that surround a word make up its connotation. Although both house and home have the same denotation, or dictionary meaning, home also has many connotations.

Denotation and Connotation Small Group Activity

Directions: With your learning partner, choose at two words from the list below and thoroughly explain the denotative and connotative meaning (s) of each word. You should have two full paragraphs. Follow the example above.

1.family

2.witch

3.cool

4.fragile

5.snake

6.gift

7. Negro

8. teacher

9. tribe

10. gang

11. dark

12. dog

13. shark

14. hot

15. Cold

Denotation and Connotation Independent Practice Activity

“Denotation is the dictionary definition of the word. It is what the word technically means.

Connotation is the feeling, emotion, cultural implication, or overtone associated with the word. Connotations may not appear in a dictionary, yet they are equally important to understanding and using the word.”—Lisa Van Germert

Directions: Watch the video. Then choose at two words from the list below and thoroughly explain the denotative and connotative meaning (s) of each word. You should have two full paragraphs. Follow the example discussed during the lesson with your teacher.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2efQrHdqbgQ>

1. skinny

2. pest

3. chill

4. mental

5. parasite

6. tea

7. assertive

8. soldier

9. clout

10. man

11. friend

12. business

13. royalty

14. fruit

15. crazy