

The Best Word for the Job Foundation Lesson

The *denotative* meaning of a word is the dictionary definition of a word. Many words have more than one denotative meaning.

1. Give two denotative meanings of the word "sharp" and use each in a sentence.

Words also have *connotative* meanings. The connotation of a word refers to the feelings and associations created by the word. Words can have positive, negative, or neutral connotations.
Example: Positive: slender Neutral: thin Negative: skinny

2. Fill in words below that have the same denotative meaning as the word "old" but that can be identified as
Positive _____
Neutral _____
Negative _____

3. Look at the following words, all of which have the denotative meaning "house":
home hut shack mansion cabin chalet
abode dwelling shanty domicile residence

Decide if each word has a positive, negative, or neutral connotation and fill in the chart below. Be prepared to defend your answer.

Positive	Neutral	Negative

4. Make a list of words that have the same denotative meaning as the word "happy."

5. Place the words listed in number four in an order that illustrates degrees of happiness the least to the most happy.

An *idiom* is a word or phrase peculiar to a particular language and different from the denotative meaning of the words.

Example: "Burning the midnight oil" means staying up late at night.
"To carry out" may mean to make sure something is done.
i.e., The spy "carried out" his mission.

6. Match the idiom with the word that best defines it. Some words may be used more than once.

- a. move
b. sad
c. satisfy
d. angry
e. friendly
f. evade

- _____ flew off the handle _____ hop to it
_____ down in the mouth _____ give them the run-around
_____ big-hearted _____ pass muster

Writing Activities

1. Choose a word from the dictionary that has at least four different meanings. Write a paragraph in which you use the word four times, each time with a different meaning.
2. Consider the following group of words:
skinny scrawny slender lithe slim emaciated gaunt willowy
After looking up the dictionary definition of each word, write two paragraphs, one using words with positive connotations to describe an attractive woman, and one using the words with negative connotations to describe an unattractive one. Include details that will "file out" your description.
3. Write a comical poem about a person from another country who encounters American id