



# The Meanings of Words

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*Denotation and Connotation*

# Denotation

The strict  
dictionary  
meaning of a  
word



# Connotation



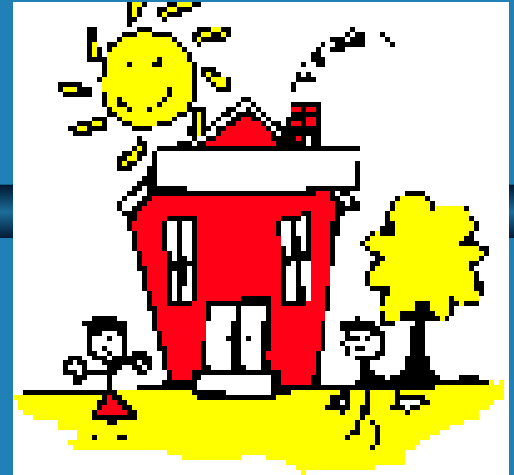
The emotional and  
imaginative  
association  
surrounding a  
word

# Denotation vs. Connotation

- **Denotation** is the dictionary or literal meaning of a word.  
Connotative words imply emotions.  
**Plump** = a full, round.  
**Fat** = While similar in meaning to plump, it has a very harsh and mean tone.

# Word Choice

You may live in a *house*, but we live in a *home*.



The connotation in this sentence is that a "home" is much more than merely the structure of a house.





The connotation of a word is often either positive or negative

## **b** Positive

We bought  
*inexpensive*  
souvenirs at the  
amusement park.

## **b** Negative

We bought  
*cheap* souvenirs  
at the amusement  
park.

Which word has a positive connotation and which has a negative one?

**negative**

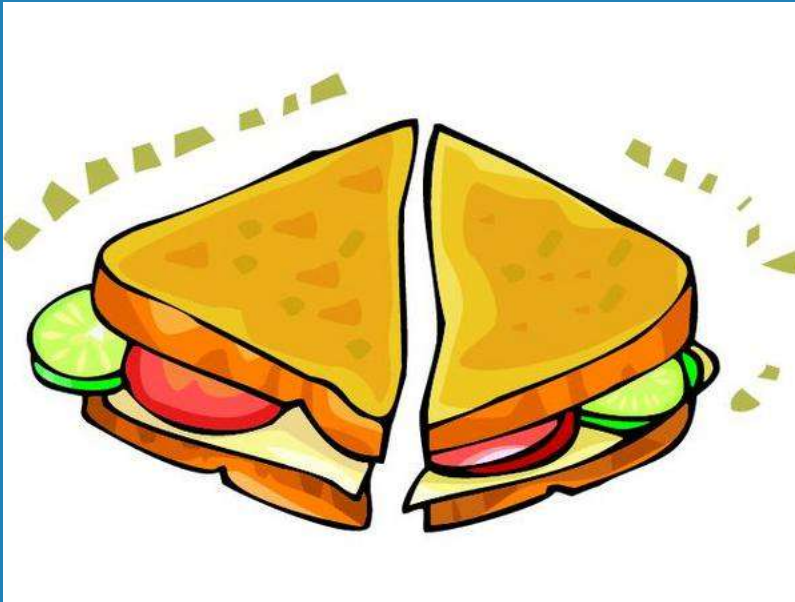
b Everyone had a **smirk** on his/her face on the ride home.

b Everyone had a **smile** on his/her face on the way home.

**positive**



# Connotation: Negative



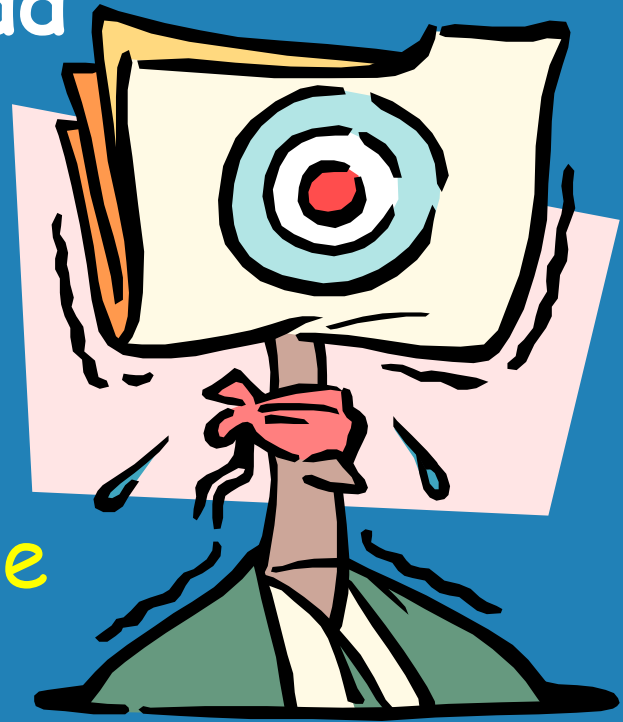
I ate a *soggy* sandwich.



# Another example...

- b You look a little odd today.
- b You look really weird today.

Which one do think has a stronger, more negative feel to it?





# Which word has a positive connotation? You Decide!

average mediocre

childish childlike

spit saliva

antique old-fashioned

# Connotation

- Opposite of Denotation
- Implied Meaning
- May be Favorable or unfavorable



# Which words have negative connotations? You Decide!

1. The (**odor, fragrance**) of apple blossoms filled the entire valley.
2. A (**swarm, bunch**) of bees filled the air near the hive.

# Tone = Emotion

b The tone of the words is what evokes a certain emotion.





Let's Play...

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*Word Choice*



# *Word Choice*

**Positive  
Viewpoint**

**100**

**200**

**300**

**Negative  
Viewpoint**

**100**

**200**

**300**



# Positive Connotation

b immature

b youthful

b *Back to Game*





# Positive Connotation

b limit

b restrict

b *Back to Game*



# Positive Viewpoint

b filthy

b dirty

b *Back to Game*



# Negative Viewpoint

b stingy

b thrifty

b **Back to Game**



# Negative Viewpoint

b cluttered

b messy

b *Back to Game*



# Negative Viewpoint

b unusual

b weird

b *Back to Game*



*Well Done!*

