



Vocabulary Power



Lesson 7 Connotation and Denotation

Many words have both connotations and denotations. A word's denotation is its dictionary meaning. The word's emotional overtones are its connotation. For example, if you are writing about a flower or a perfume, you might choose the word *fragrance*, since that word is associated with pleasant smells. If you are writing about a barnyard or garbage dump, however, you might choose the word *odor*, a word associated with unpleasant smells. A word like *smell* is neutral. Both flowers and barnyards smell. In this lesson, you'll learn about the connotations and denotations of words.

Word List

acquiesce

ecstatic

mammoth

spurn

captivate

exploit

petrified

tantalizing

conspire

ludicrous

EXERCISE A Denotations

Look up each boldfaced vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning. Then, on the line provided, write a sentence using the word. **Sample definitions are provided. Students' sentences will vary.**

1. captivate Dictionary definition captivate: to attract and hold by charm, wit, or beauty

2. acquiesce Dictionary definition acquiesce: to consent without protest

3. ludicrous Dictionary definition ludicrous: ridiculous

4. conspire Dictionary definition conspire: to plot secretly to commit an illegal or wrongful act

5. ecstatic Dictionary definition ecstatic: marked by delight, excited in a happy way

6. exploit Dictionary definition exploit: to make use of someone or something for selfish reasons

7. mammoth Dictionary definition mammoth: gigantic

8. tantalizing Dictionary definition tantalizing: tempting

9. spurn Dictionary definition spurn: to reject

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Vocabulary Power *continued*

10. petrified

Dictionary definition petrified: terrified, as if turned to stone

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