Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_

**Denotation vs. Connotation**

**D**enotation: The **d**ictionary meaning of a word. It is the **literal** meaning of a word.

**C**onnotation: The **c**ultural or emotional meaning attached to a word. Connotation refers to **how we feel** about a word.

*Slim* and *scrawny* have the same **literal** meaning or **denotation**. It means *skinny*.

Look at the picture below: Which would you describe as skinny? scrawny?

 

**Word:** **Word:**

Why?: Why?:

**The Many Words for House**

These words below all have the same denotative meaning for “House,” but they all give a different “feeling” of a place where you live. Explain what you think the **connotative** meaning is of each word.

**Home:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dwelling:\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Shack:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Crib:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Positive and Negative Connotations**

Words can have positive and negative connotations—even though their meaning may be the same.

***1. Look at the examples below:*** *Which words have positive connotations and which words have negative connotations? Circle the* ***negative*** *connotations.*

|  |
| --- |
| Thrifty or CheapJob or CareerOverweight or FatSmell or StinkOld or ElderlyHomeless or BumProblem or DisasterFilthy or MessyFoolish or UnwiseNag or RemindYell or ShoutMoist or SoggyChildish or YoungSaliva or Spit |

**2. Pick one pair of connotations above and describe the connotations:**

**Example:**

 **SMELL:**  **STINK:**

*Both words mean “an odor” but one is pleasant and the other is terrible.*

**Denotation/Connotation Practice**

**WE DO:** *Each of the following groups of words has a similar DENOTATION, but the connotations are different. Use each group of words and catagorize them in the chart below.*

 1. gaze, look steadily, stare

 2. fragrance, odor, a smell

 3. brainwash, persuade, influence one way or another

 4. delayed, not on time, tardy

 5. somewhat interested, nosy, curious

 6. lazily, without hurry, leisurely

 7. ask of someone, demand, request

 8. gathering, a large group, mob

 9. slim, skinny, less than average build

10. discuss with others, debate, argue

11. observe, watch, spy

12. a young age, youthful, immature

13. not having a care, irresponsible, carefree,

14. unique, not commonly found, strange

15. find, detect, snoop

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Positive Connotation*** | ***Denotation*** | ***Negative Connotation*** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |
| 11 |  |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |  |
| 13 |  |  |  |
| 14 |  |  |  |
| 15 |  |  |  |

**YOU DO:** *Practice shifting your viewpoint so that you can describe the same object both favorably and unfavorably. Choose* ***one*** *of the descriptions below. Write a short description that is favorable and a short description that is unfavorable.*

***For example,*** *you might describe a* ***banana*** *as either sweetly ripe or mushy, depending on the desired connotation.*

* Describe a wet street after the rain.
* Describe a challenging class.
* Describe a hamburger made in a fast-food restaurant.
* Describe a group of three or four teen-age girls walking down the street together.

Summary 1: Positive Description:

Summary 2: Negative Description