

Connotation and Denotation



Definitions:

- **Connotation**: What we think about when we hear a word. The feelings we have when we read it or hear it. Happy? Sad? Excited?
- **Denotation**: The actual definition of a word. It's what you read when you look up the word in the dictionary.

Example:

- #13
- Denotation: A number equivalent to the sum of six and seven; one more than 12; 7 less than 20.
- Connotation: fear, suspicion.
- The connotation of this number can make people feel so scared that hotels don't have floors numbered 13! The hotel floors jump from 12 to 14 because the builders thought that no one would want to stay in a room on floor 13!

- Cheap
- Denotation: Low in cost.
- Connotation: Poorly made. Made with inferior ingredients or products.

Your Turn!

- For each of the following sentences, explain why the word or words in bold are not good choices for the sentence. For example it might not be a good time to use the denotation of a word because it's too scientific.

#1

- **Trip** and **journey** are both words whose denotations mean to travel, right?
- What's the connotation of each? (Hint: What would you pack for a trip? What would you pack for a journey?)

#2

- **Dirt** and **soil** have denotation that mean the upper layer of earth or the ground.
- What is the connotation of each? (Hint: Do plants grow best in dirt or soil? Why would that be?)

#3

- Cabin and hut have the same denotation. They are both places to live.
- What's the connotation of each? (Hint: Which would you rather live in? Why?)

- On a blank sheet of paper come up with two words that have the same denotation and explain what their connotations would be.
- This will be collected at the door as your exit ticket.