

Connotations (Loaded Words) and Denotations

HW 27: due Friday. Mark up the text and answer #2-6 on a separate sheet of paper.

Loaded Words and Phrases Worksheet p. 18
in ELA Text Pack

Match the words in column two with the words in column one. What is the relationship between the two columns?

positive connotations negative connotations

proud	a. nosy
clever	b. stench
curious	c. the slammer
determined	d. argue
challenging	e. cunning
aroma	f. stuck up
debate	g. impossible
correctional facility	h. stubborn

denotative words

interested

smell

prison

discuss

difficult

these words are neutral

connotations. Write POS or NEG on the line provided:

1. POS Fred is unique.
2. NEG Fred is weird.
3. POS The president has been studying the problem thoroughly.
4. NEG The president was put on the spot.
5. NEG Sheila is a snob.
6. POS Sheila is very dignified.
7. POS Let's be spontaneous.
8. NEG We have no plan of action.
9. POS The music is energetic.
10. NEG The music is noisy.
11. NEG The mob gathered outside the theater.
12. POS The large crowd gathered outside the theater.
13. NEG The suspect claimed that he was at home at the time.
14. POS The suspect showed that he was at home at the time.
15. POS Hank took responsibility for the mistake.
16. POS Hank admitted that he was guilty of the error. - newt
17. NEG The general was indecisive.
18. POS The general was not rash.

B. Identify the POSitive, NEGative, or NEUTral expression in each triplet. Then write a sentence containing the type of expression that is missing.

- e.g., Neut The decorations were elaborate.
NEG The decorations were gaudy.
POS - (The decorations were tastefully done.)

1. ~~NEG~~ He wolfed his food.
 POS Joe had a hearty appetite.

2. ~~NEG~~ The furniture was from the 1920's.
 POS The furniture was an antique.

3. ~~NEG~~ The teacher's voice put an end to the students' unruly behavior.
 POS The teacher screamed at the students.

4. _____ Carol spends much of her time playing chess.
 _____ Carol is obsessed with chess.

5. _____ John predicts that he will win.
 _____ John is confident of victory.

6. _____ His clothes are inexpensive.
 _____ His clothes are cheap.

7. _____ Parents want to guide their children.
 _____ Parents want to control their children.

8. _____ Lisa borrowed the ideas.
 _____ Lisa stole the ideas.

Handwritten notes:
 quickly
 outdated old fashioned
 the T. calmed-quieted

9. ~~NEG~~ He squandered his money on trinkets.
 POS Joe spent his money on various items.

10. ~~NEG~~ Phil surrendered to peer pressure.
 POS Jill followed the advice of her friends.

11. POS What is that aroma?
 NEG What is that stench?
 POS _____

12. ~~NEG~~ _____ Dave is a beast.
 POS _____ Dave is muscular.
 POS _____

Handwritten note:
 I was persuaded

persuade an audience or produce a certain effect in the reader.

Practice. Tell whether the word or phrase has POSITIVE or NEGATIVE connotations. Write POS or NEG on the line provided:

- ~~POS~~ **POS** Fred is unique.
- ~~NEG~~ **POS** Fred is weird.
- ~~POS~~ **NEG** The president has been studying the problem thoroughly.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** The president was put on the spot.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** Sheila is a snob.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** Sheila is very dignified.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** Let's be spontaneous.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** We have no plan of action.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** The music is energetic.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** The music is noisy.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** The mob gathered outside the theater.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** The large crowd gathered outside the theater.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** The suspect claimed that he was at home at the time.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** The suspect showed that he was at home at the time.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** Hank took responsibility for the mistake.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** Hank admitted that he was guilty of the error.
- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** The general was indecisive.
- ~~POS~~ **POS** The general was not rash.

B. Identify the POSitive, NEGative, or NEUTral expression in each triplet. Then write a sentence containing the type of expression that is missing.

- ~~NEG~~ **NEG** Joe wolfed his food.
_____ Joe had a hearty appetite.
- _____ The furniture was from the 1920's.
_____ The furniture was an antique.
NEG _____ *was old fashioned or outdated*
- ~~NEUT~~ **NEUT** The teacher's voice put an end to the students' unruly behavior.
~~NEG~~ **NEG** The teacher screamed at the students.
Pos _____ *calmed the class quieted*
- ~~NEUT~~ **NEUT** Carol spends much of her time playing chess.
~~NEG~~ **NEG** Carol is obsessed with chess.
Pos _____ *is interested*
- ~~NEUT~~ **NEUT** John predicts that he will win.
Pos John is confident of victory.
NEG _____ *is rocky over confident*
- _____ His clothes are inexpensive.
~~NEG~~ **NEG** His clothes are cheap.
Pos. _____ *got his clothes at a good bargain*
- ~~NEUT~~ **NEUT** Parents want to guide their children.
~~NEG~~ **NEG** Parents want to control their children.
Pos _____ *Parents want help their ch*
- ~~POS~~ **POS** Lisa borrowed the ideas.
~~NEG~~ **NEG** Lisa stole the ideas.
NEUT _____ *used the ideas*