



# The Meanings of Words

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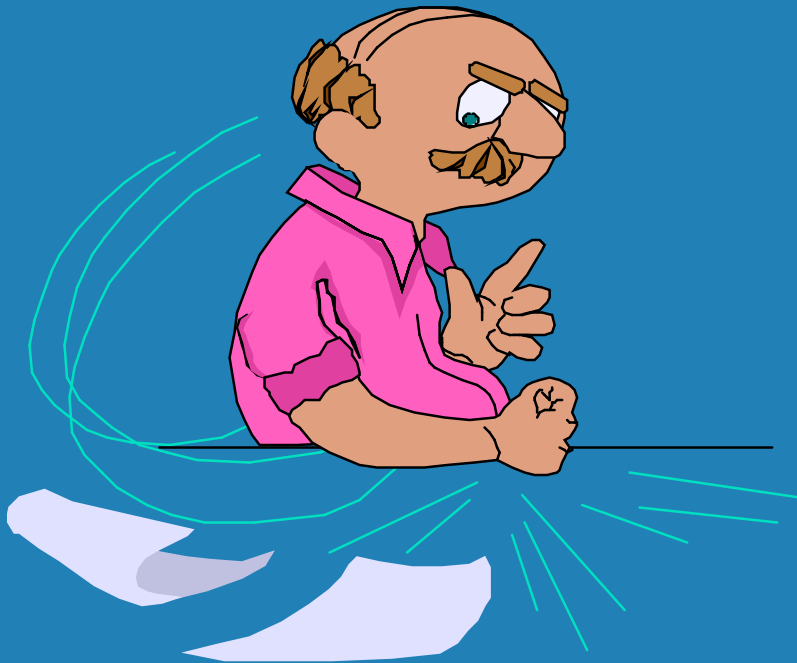
*Denotation and Connotation*

# Denotation

The strict  
dictionary  
meaning of a  
word



# Connotation



The emotional  
and imaginative  
association  
surrounding a  
word

# Purposes of Words

To label things

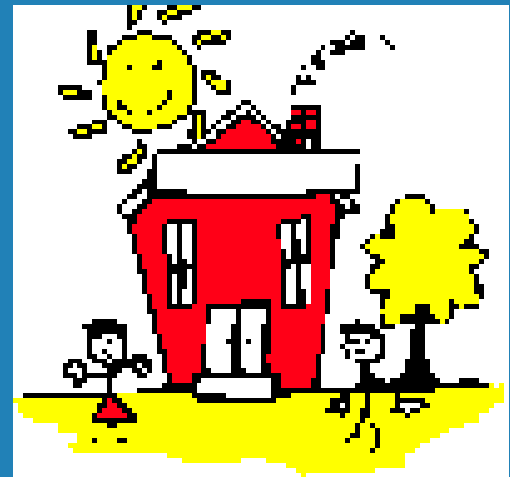
I live in a *house*.



# Purposes of Words

To express a  
point of view

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



# Point of View

## Ω Positive

We bought  
*inexpensive*  
souvenirs at the  
amusement park.

## Ω Negative

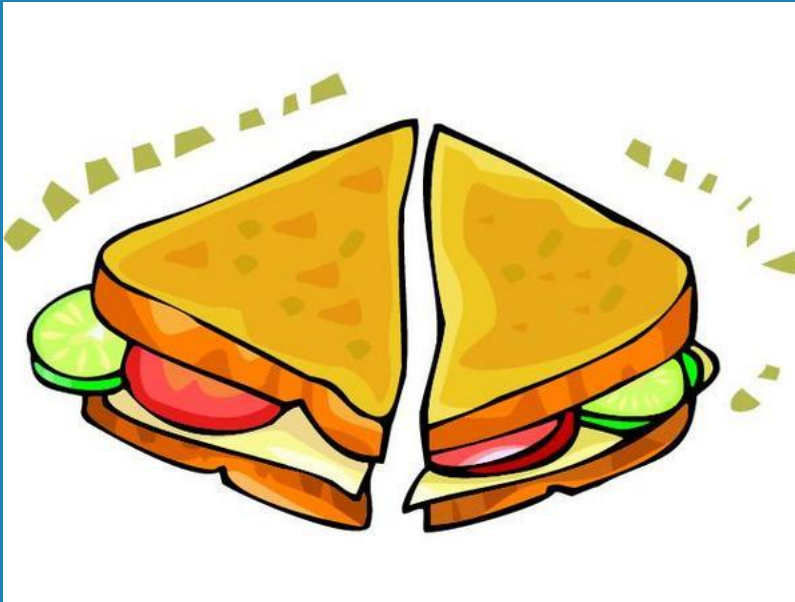
We bought  
*cheap* souvenirs  
at the amusement  
park.

# Point of View: Positive



- Everyone had a (*smile, smirk*) on his/her face on the ride home.
- Everyone had a *smile* on his/her face on the way home.

# Point of View: Negative



I ate a  
(*soggy, moist*)  
sandwich.

I ate a *soggy*  
sandwich





# Positive? You Decide!

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average

mediocre

childish

childlike

spit

saliva

antique

old-fashioned

# Context Clues

Words or phrases that help the reader understand a difficult word



# Using Context Clues

- ⌚ The parrot was able to (*mimic*, *mock*) human voices.
- ⌚ The parrot was able to *mimic* human voices.



# Context Clues: 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.
3. Tammy (**delayed, hesitated**) for a moment, then went on speaking.

# Tackling the Connotation vs. Denotation Assignment

- ⌚ Write one sentence for each word (20 sentences total).
- ⌚ Then, for each word pair, explain the emotional difference (connotation) between the two.
- ⌚ Need an example? See the next slide...

# Example: Residence vs. Home

- ⌚ The old woman left the bus quickly on her way to visit her friend in her retirement residence.
- ⌚ I couldn't wait to get home to see my new dog.
- ⌚ Connotation: Although the definition is the same, residence has a cold, impersonal feel to it, but home feels warm, cozy, and comforting.