Name: Date: Score: / 8

Connotation and Denotation: Learn and Practice

Feel the difference between similar words

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Connotation and Denotation

- Denotation is the dictionary meaning of a word.
- Connotation is the feeling a word carries: positive, negative or neutral.
- Writers choose words with the right feeling for their purpose.
- Thrifty sounds positive, but cheap sounds negative.

1 A reviewer calls a film childish. Which word would sound more positive?

A. babyish B. youthful C. silly D. immature

2 Which word shows a confident speaker in a positive way?

A. cocky B. arrogant C. assured D. smug

3 What is connotation?

A. the feeling a word suggests

B. the spelling pattern C. the number of syllables

D. the dictionary meaning

4 What is denotation?

A. the dictionary meaning of a word

B. the sound a word makes

C. the origin of a word

D. the feeling a word gives

5 Which word makes a smell sound pleasant?

A. aroma B. stench C. reek D. odour

6 House and home have similar denotations. Which has a warmer connotation?

A. house B. home C. structure D. building

7 Which word has the most positive connotation?

A. bony B. skinny C. slender D. scrawny

8 Which word has a negative connotation?

A. determined B. stubborn C. persistent

D. dedicated

✏️ **Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for connotation and denotation and one example.**

ANSWER KEY

Connotation and Denotation: Learn and Practice (answers)

Feel the difference between similar words

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 A reviewer calls a film childish. Which word would sound more positive?

A. babyish **B. youthful** C. silly D. immature

Youthful suggests energy and freshness rather than foolishness.

2 Which word shows a confident speaker in a positive way?

A. cocky B. arrogant **C. assured** D. smug

Assured means confident in a calm, positive way. The others suggest showing off.

3 What is connotation?

A. the feeling a word suggests

B. the spelling pattern C. the number of syllables

D. the dictionary meaning

Connotation is the emotion or idea a word brings to mind.

4 What is denotation?

A. the dictionary meaning of a word

B. the sound a word makes

C. the origin of a word

D. the feeling a word gives

Denotation is the exact, literal meaning you find in a dictionary.

5 Which word makes a smell sound pleasant?

A. aroma B. stench C. reek D. odour

Aroma suggests a nice smell, like fresh bread.

6 House and home have similar denotations. Which has a warmer connotation?

A. house **B. home** C. structure D. building

Home suggests family, comfort and belonging.

7 Which word has the most positive connotation?

A. bony B. skinny **C. slender** D. scrawny

All four mean thin, but slender sounds graceful and positive.

8 Which word has a negative connotation?

A. determined **B. stubborn** C. persistent

D. dedicated

Stubborn suggests someone who will not listen, which feels negative.