



Word Connotations and Denotations

Today's Standard

7.L.5c - Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending).

Cues	Notes
What is connotation?	Connotation refers to the emotional or cultural associations of a word.
What is denotation?	Denotation is the literal, dictionary definition of a word.
Why is understanding connotations important?	Understanding connotations helps in choosing the right word for the desired tone and meaning.
Can words with similar definitions be used interchangeably?	Words with similar definitions often have different connotations and cannot always be used interchangeably.
How can context change connotations?	Context can significantly alter the connotation of a word, making it positive, negative, or neutral.

Summary

Connotation and denotation are key concepts in understanding word meanings. While denotation is the literal definition, connotation involves the emotional or cultural associations. Recognizing these differences is crucial for effective communication and writing.