

What is Denotation and Connotation?

Worksheet

Denotation is a word's literal dictionary meaning, while connotation refers to the emotional and cultural associations attached to that word.

Questions

1. Which is the denotation of 'dog'?
 - A) A four-legged domesticated canine animal
 - B) Loyalty and friendship
 - C) A furry companion
 - D) A symbol of faithfulness
2. Which word has a negative connotation?
 - A) Assertive
 - B) Aggressive
 - C) Confident
 - D) Determined
3. Both 'old' and 'vintage' denote... but differ in connotation.
 - A) being new
 - B) being aged
 - C) being valuable
 - D) being broken
4. What does connotation NOT include?
 - A) Cultural associations
 - B) Emotional responses
 - C) The dictionary definition
 - D) Personal interpretations
5. The word 'home' has the denotation of a place of residence. What is its connotation?
6. Identify denotation and connotation for 'skinny'.
7. What is the denotation of 'childish' and its connotation?
8. Define: What is denotation?
9. Define: What is connotation?
10. Define: Does connotation vary between people?

Answer Key

1. A) A four-legged domesticated canine animal — Denotation is the literal dictionary meaning. Options B, C, D are connotations.
2. B) Aggressive — 'Aggressive' carries negative connotation (hostile, hostile force), while the others are positive.
3. B) being aged — Both mean aged/from the past, but 'vintage' has positive connotation (classic, desirable) vs. 'old' (worn out).
4. C) The dictionary definition — The dictionary definition is denotation, not connotation. Connotation is all the emotional and cultural layers.
5. Denotation: a physical building where people live Connotation: warmth, comfort, safety, belonging, family
6. Denotation: having very little body fat, thin Connotation: negative (weak, unhealthy) vs. positive in fashion context
7. Denotation: characteristic of a child, immature Connotation: negative (foolish, irresponsible) — often insulting when applied to adults
8. The literal, dictionary definition of a word — its objective meaning.
9. The emotional, cultural, and personal associations or feelings attached to a word.
10. Yes — connotation is subjective and varies by culture, experience, and individual.

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