

Language Arts PAC

California State Content Standards - English Language Arts - Grades Nine and Ten

Reading 1.2

Distinguish between the denotative and connotative meanings of words and interpret the connotative power of words.

Credits: 0.25

REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive .25 Language Arts Credits, you must complete the following requirements.

Follow the steps exactly and check off each one upon completion.

1. Read and study the Denotation/Connotation handout (p.3) _____
2. Read and study the Euphemism Glossary (p. 4-6) _____
3. Complete the Euphemism Worksheet (p. 7-8) _____
4. Complete the Article Assignment and Worksheet (p. 9-10) _____
5. Turn in this PAC with the articles stapled to the back _____
6. Take the Euphemisms test with Ms. Goodnough _____

DENOTATION/CONNOTATION

The power of words

Denotation

- A word's dictionary definition.
- The explicit or direct meaning of a word or expression. Usually as blunt, straightforward, and precise as possible.
- Denotative - Direct - Dictionary

Connotation

- The images or feelings you connect to a word. Stretches beyond just the dictionary definition.
- The associated or secondary meaning of a word or expression in addition to its explicit or primary meaning. Derived based on culture, society and personal experience.
- Connotation - secondary - Connected feelings
- Connotation

Euphemism

- Words we use to:
 - soften the reality of what we are communicating
 - express what is socially difficult to express in direct terms
 - discuss an issue that is terrifying or taboo
 - elevate the status of something
- Origination
 - Latinate Roots
 - "After the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, the community began to make a distinction between a genteel and an obscene vocabulary, between the Latinate words of the upper class and the lusty Anglo-Saxon of the lower. That is why a duchess perspired and expectorated - while a kitchen maid sweated and spat" (Farb 80).

Examples

- addicted - chemically dependent
- to die - pass away, pass on, go to heaven
- drunk - intoxicated, inebriated
- garbage man - sanitation engineer
- fat - overweight, curvy
- old - mature, seasoned, distinguished
- cop - peace officer
- ugly - unattractive, plain, average

GLOSSARY OF EUPHEMISMS

Word	Euphemism
accident, crisis, disaster	incident
addict, addiction	substance abuser; substance abuse, chemical dependency
arrest (v)	apprehend
bombing	air support
break-in	security breach
cheap	frugal, thrifty, economical
confinement	detention
criminal (young)	juvenile delinquent
crippled	disabled, physically challenged
dead	departed, deceased, late, lost, gone, passed
death penalty	capital punishment
death	demise, end, destination, better world, afterlife
die	pass away, pass on, expire, go to heaven
drugs	illegal substances
drunk (adj)	intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy
fail	fizzle out, fall short, go out of business
false (adj)	prosthesis
fat	overweight, chubby, portly, stout, plum
fire (v)	play off, release, downsize, let go, streamline, rightsize
garbage collector	sanitation person
garbage dump	landfill
genocide	ethnic cleansing
illegal worker	undocumented worker
imprisoned	incarcerated

Word	Euphemism
jail	secure facility
kill	put down/away/out/to sleep
killing of innocents	collateral damage
lawyer	attorney
lazy	unmotivated
lie (n)	fib, fabrication, cover story, story, untruth, inaccuracy
money	funds
mortuary	funeral home/parlor
murder	hit, kill, do someone in, finish off someone
noisy	boisterous
office equipment	productivity products
old	mature, distinguished, senior, traditional, seasoned, new (e.g., "The house is two years new")
old age	golden age, golden years
old person	senior citizen, pensioner
old persons' home	convalescent hospital, retirement home, rest home, nursing home
person	representative, individual
sweat	perspire, perspiration
police officer	peace officer
poor nation	emerging nation, developing nation, third-world nation
poor student	underachiever, underperformer
poor	low-income, working class, modest, underprivileged
power failure	service interruption
prison	correctional facility
prisoner	inmate, convict, detainee

Word	Euphemism
problem	issue, challenge, complication
rain, snow, hail	precipitation
removed from duty	put on administrative leave
repression (social, political)	law and order
retarded	special, slow, mentally challenged
rough	physical
rude	self-centered
sales	marketing
salesman, -woman	sales associate
secretary	administrative assistant
selfish	self-centered
sick	indisposed, ill, under the weather
small	quaint, cozy, petite
spying	surveillance
steal	appropriate, salvage, lift, borrow
stupid	slow
suicide (to commit)	to end it all, take the easy way out, do oneself in
teacher	educator
theft	inventory shrinkage
ugly	unattractive, modest, plain
unemployed	between jobs, taking time off
used	previously owned, pre-owned, refurbished, second-hand
victim	casualty

EUPHEMISM WORKSHEET

What are some euphemisms for the following words?

1. to die: _____
2. fat: _____
3. ugly: _____

Translate the following sentences from their connotative euphemisms to their denotative definitions. The number of euphemisms in each sentence is located in parentheses.

4. His grandfather passed away. (1)

5. The sales associate answered in the affirmative when the judge asked him if he had ever been incarcerated. (3)

6. The manager complained to his administrative assistant of inventory shrinkage. (2)

7. Dan's supervisor laid him off because he was unmotivated. (3)

8. The correctional facility has 220 inmates, five of whom are facing capital punishment. (2)

ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT

1. Find a recent (within the last year) newspaper or magazine article that uses at least 10 euphemisms. If you need to, you may use multiple articles in order to reach 10 euphemisms.
2. Cut or print out the article(s).
3. Highlight, circle, underline or otherwise mark the euphemisms in the articles.
4. Complete the Euphemism Article Worksheet.
5. Staple the articles to the back of this PAC.

