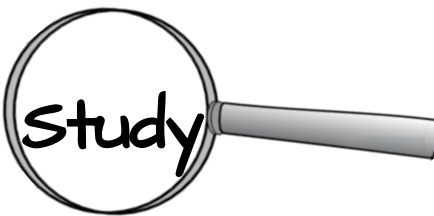


Word Study



All words have a denotation, or meaning. Sometimes, words also have a connotation, which is an idea or feeling the word creates for someone on top of its meaning.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| denotation | the meaning of a word |
|-------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| connotation | an idea or feeling a word brings to mind, in addition to its meaning |
|--------------------|--|

Rather than identifying the specific idea or feeling of a word, which can be different for each person, it is helpful to think of connotation in terms of whether a word seems to be more positive or more negative. Often, that depends on context, or how the word is used. Sometimes the exact same word can have the opposite connotation in different sentences.

Let's explore connotation with the word "big" in *Big* by Vashti Harrison. Complete each chart by reading the quote from the book. Then, put a plus sign (+) next to connotation if *big* seems more positive and a minus sign (-) if it seems more negative.

| | |
|--|--|
| "Once there was a girl with a big laugh and a big heart and very big dreams." | |
|--|--|

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| denotation | large in size |
|-------------------|---------------|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| connotation | |
|--------------------|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| "Don't you think you're too big for that?" | |
|---|--|

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| denotation | large in size |
|-------------------|---------------|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| connotation | |
|--------------------|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| "Aren't you too big to be crying?" | |
|---|--|

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| denotation | large in size |
|-------------------|---------------|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| connotation | |
|--------------------|--|

KEEP STUDYING! When you are reading, keep an eye out for words that feel especially positive or negative. Think about whether that feeling is truly part of the definition, or meaning, of the word OR if it is the connotation.