

Name

Hour

Connotation/Denotation/Euphemism

Part One: Organize the following words from each list into a group of words with positive connotations and a list with negative connotations. Each word must be used in one of the two lists. You will do this on another sheet of paper.

- 1. tight, miserly, frugal, economical, careful, penurious, thrifty, budget-minded, prudent, penny-pinching
- 2. dislike, resent, lament, hate, scorn, disapprove, decry, deplore, oppose, regret
- 3. odd, curious, off-the-wall, outlandish, weird, singular, bizarre, unusual, strange, extraordinary, remarkable, eerie, noteworthy

Part Two: Often two words mean roughly the same thing, except that one has an unfavorable, the other, a favorable, connotation. Thus, although you may like to think of yourself as an *idealist*, people who do not sympathize with your attitudes might call you a *dreamer*. For the following pairs of terms, write short explanations of why you might like to be described by one term but not the other. Choose five to do. You will do this on another sheet of paper. Make sure you label which pair you are doing.

- 1. self-confident/conceited
- 2. assertive/pushy
- 3. firm/stubborn
- 4. hard-working/workaholic
- 5. flexible/indecisive
- 6. casual/sloppy
- 7. mature/old

Part Three: For each pair of words and a phrase, list the one that is positive in the "Positive Connotation" category, the one that is negative in the "Negative Connotation" category, and the phrase that is a more neutral definition for both words in the "Denotation" column.

- 1. gaze, look steadily, stare
- 2. fragrance, odor, a smell sensed by the olfactory nerve
- 3. brainwash, persuade, influence one way or another
- 4. delayed, not on time, tardy
- 5. somewhat interested, nosy, curious
- 6. lazily, without haste, leisurely
- 7. ask of someone, demand, request
- 8. gathering, a large group, mob
- 9. slim, skinny, less than average build
- 10. discuss with others, debate, argue
- 11. observe, watch, spy
- 12. a young age, youthful, immature
- 13. not having a care, irresponsible, carefree,
- 14. unique, not commonly found, strange
- 15. find, detect, snoop
- 16. inexpensive, fairly priced, or cheap
- 17. isolation, privacy, having an opportunity to be alone
- 18. assertive, firmly confident, pushy
- 19. extravagance, generosity, giving much,

	Positive Connotation	Denotation	Negative Connotation
1			
2			
3			
4			
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Part Four: The expressions in italics are euphemisms. What do they probably mean?

1. She was *less favored by beauty than her sister*

2. Someone *borrowed money from my locker* without asking me.

3. I just bought a *pre-owned* car yesterday.

4. I just won a *lunch reservation* from Mr. Simon.

5. The *caretaker* does an excellent job at Braden.

6. I got in a bit of trouble for *stretching the truth* about the broken lamp.

7. Now I'm headed for the *correctional facility* again.

8. Where do I work? Actually, I'm *between jobs* at the moment.

9. Now that I'm *getting up there in years* I don't like birthdays so much.

10. Eric's driving skills leave *plenty of room for improvement*.
