

Denotation and Connotation

Remember that **denotation** is _____

Connotation is _____

And **diction** is _____

negative: There are over 2,000 vagrants in the city.

neutral: There are over 2,000 people with no fixed address in the city.

positive: There are over 2,000 homeless in the city.

Which word in each pair below has the more favorable connotation to you?

Underline it.

thrifty-penny-pinching

pushy-aggressive

politician-statesman

chef-cook

slender-skinny

Label these in order from 1 (nicest) up to the most offensive

drug addict, druggie, drug fiend, substance abuser

handicapped, crippled, disabled, differently abled

horse, steed, nag, plug house

home, abode, domicile, residence

thin, slender, slim, skinny, lean, beanpole

attractive, pretty, beautiful, handsome, fair

reporter, journalist, broadcaster, newshound

unattractive, plain, dull, ugly

Circle the kindest word

refreshing – chilly

plain – natural

clever – sly

cackle – giggle

snob – cultured

cop – officer

skinny – slender

statesman – politician

smile – smirk

domineering – assertive

For the following groups of words, create a general definition and then rank the words from 1 (kindest) to 2,3,4,5 (most offensive)

<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>thin bony slim anorexic slender</p>	<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>imprison relocate incarcerate intern evacuate detain lock-up confine</p>
<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>guerilla freedom fighter mercenary soldier terrorist</p>	<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>internment camps detention camps assembly centers concentration camps prison camps relocation centers temporary detention centers</p>
<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>uprising riot demonstration unlawful gathering protest disturbance</p>	<p><u>General definition:</u></p> <p>prisoner evacuee internee detainee inmate</p>