

**GOLD EDITION**

# **PRACTICE COACH PLUS**



English Language Arts

**6**



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# Denotation and Connotation



## Coached Instruction

Use the following examples to better understand the denotation and connotation of words.

### ► Denotation

- Ⓐ The wind blew through the trees.
- Ⓑ The sea breeze on the beach was welcoming.
- Ⓒ A gale whipped the flag to pieces.

### Discuss

What denotation do all these words share?



### Apply

1. Which word has a neutral meaning?
2. Which word has a positive meaning?
3. Which word has a negative meaning?



**Think It Through** I can use context to help me figure out the meaning.  
The word *welcoming* gives me a clue to the meaning of *breeze*.

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## ► Connotation

Read the paragraphs.

The front door slammed and Rosalinda heard a voice call out, “I’m home!” She hurried into the hallway to greet her father. She was as excited as a five-year-old child on her birthday. Her father was bringing home a computer!

Rosalinda ran to hug her father. “Did you get it?” she asked.

Mr. Ramonov chuckled. “Yes, I got it. The boxes are in my car. Let’s go fetch them together.”

Rosalinda knew it would be her best birthday ever.

### Discuss

How is a word’s connotation different from its denotation?



### Apply

1. What is the denotation of the word *slammed* in the first sentence?
2. Does the word have a positive or negative connotation in the passage? Explain why.



**Think It Through** I can think of the context of the other sentences to help me determine the connotation of the word *slammed*.

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## ► Word Choice

**Read the paragraph.**

Jordan walked down the sidewalk. She could smell the odor of the blooming rosebushes and hear the birds chirping in the trees. The whole world seemed to be alive and growing well. Across the street, Mrs. Jimenez tended her vegetable garden. She smiled and shook her hand at Jordan. Lisa Jimenez ran out of the house to confront Jordan. They were going to the park for a picnic. Jordan loved the spring; it was her favorite season.


### Discuss

How can the connotation of words affect the tone of your writing?



### Apply

**The author of this paragraph wants to create a joyful, pleasant tone. Rewrite the paragraph to replace the underlined words with words that have a more positive connotation that will better fit the tone.**

 **Think It Through** The word *walked* has a neutral connotation. I can brainstorm several words for ways that people move to choose a word that better conveys the tone the author wants to create.

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## Lesson Practice

Use the Reading Guide to help you understand the passage.

### Reading Guide

- What are some synonyms for the word *exhausted*?
- Think of three synonyms for *thrilled* and decide whether each one has a positive, negative, or neutral connotation.
- Which word can you use instead of *scared* to connote the level of Beth's fear?

## Stormy Weather

Cold and exhausted, Melissa ran to the car with her homework folder over her head. She knew her homework would be soaked, but she had no choice. The driving rain was too much to avoid. She opened the passenger door as quickly as she could and jumped inside. Then she quickly pulled the door shut.

She had finally made it into the dry car. Melissa didn't want to step foot out of the car again until the rainstorm was completely over. She was drenched but thrilled to be out of the storm and gale outside.

Melissa saw her little sister, Beth, in the distance, huddled in the doorway with the other kindergartners, waiting to be picked up. Melissa felt a flood of sympathy for her little sister. Beth looked scared, staring out of the school doorway.

"There's an umbrella in the backseat," Melissa's dad told her.

"OK, I'd better go get her," said Melissa. She took a deep breath and hopped out of the car, making a dash for her sister. "Let's go home," she said to her sister as she reached out her hand to her.

**Answer the following questions about the passage.**

1. Read this sentence from the passage.

**She knew her homework would be soaked, but she had no choice.**

Which word with a similar connotation can be used instead of soaked?

- A. wet
- B. drenched
- C. finished
- D. damp

2. What is the denotation of exhausted?

- A. energetic
- B. tired
- C. imagined
- D. feared

3. Read this sentence from the passage.

**Melissa felt a flood of sympathy for her little sister.**

Which word has a similar connotation to flood?

- A. overflow
- B. water
- C. drip
- D. bubble

4. What is the denotation of gale?

- A. car
- B. wetness
- C. strong rain
- D. strong wind

5. How would replacing the word huddled with *cowering* in paragraph 3 change the connotation of the sentence?

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**The following questions do not relate to the passage.**

6. Read this sentence from a story a student is writing.

**Harry ate his lunch and went toward the door.**

The student changed the sentence to the following.

**Harry gulped his lunch and lunged for the door.**

How does the change in the underlined words affect the connotation of the sentence? Why?

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7. Choose the sentences that have negative connotations. There is more than one correct choice listed below.

- A. The brothers shouted as they argued about the game.
- B. The brothers raised their voices as they discussed the game.
- C. The filthy floorboards groaned as the prowler crept across them.
- D. The dusty floorboards groaned as the man walked across them.
- E. The slender child broke into a big grin.
- F. The skinny kid hid a smirk from the others.

8. A student is writing a folktale. Read this paragraph from the tale.

**It was a gloomy night, and a lone figure hunched against the frigid rain and wind. All he wanted was a spot by a cozy fire for the night. He raised a slender hand and timidly knocked on the heavy wooden door. It creaked as the old hag opened it. She glared at the young prince. “What are you doing in my shack? I would never invite a stuck-up snob like you to my home.”**

Now rewrite the paragraph, using words with positive connotations in place of the underlined words.

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9. Sort these words into the appropriate columns.

relaxed	challenge	problem	careless	repeat
remind	plant	weed	brave	

Denotation	Positive Connotation	Negative Connotation
	informal	disorganized
a difficulty		
		nag
a growing thing		
taking action		