

Chapters 10 – 12

Assessment Preparation: Connotation and Denotation

The **denotation** of a word is simply its dictionary definition. The **connotation** of a word, on the other hand, is the tone or “sound” of the word. The connotation of a word is better described as the feeling that a word provokes when read in context. Even if two words have the same definition, they may not have the same connotation. For example, a cup and a chalice are essentially the same thing, but the word chalice has a more regal and rich tone to it. A chalice is not just a cup, but an ornately decorated, jewel-covered cup, fit for a king.

Directions: On the first line, write the definition (denotation) of the vocabulary word. On the second line, write three synonyms for the vocabulary word. Then, write a sentence using the vocabulary word and replace the word with its synonyms using the same sentence. On the last line, write which of the four words has the most negative connotation to you and why you feel this way. An example has been done for you.

Example: ominous

Denotation: having the significance of an omen of evil or harm

Synonyms: foreboding, threatening, portentous

Sentence: The darkening sky was an **ominous** sign of the coming storm.

The darkening sky was a foreboding sign of the coming storm.

The darkening sky was a threatening sign of the coming storm.

The darkening sky was a portentous sign of the coming storm.

Most Negative Connotation: Threatening; it gives the feeling that the danger is near.

1. inimical

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

2. demerits

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Name _____ Period _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

3. ethereal

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

4. inextricable

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

5. expiation

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

6. zenith

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Name _____ Period _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

7. scurrilous

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____

8. portent

Denotation: _____

Synonyms: _____

Sentences: _____

Most Negative Connotation: _____
