
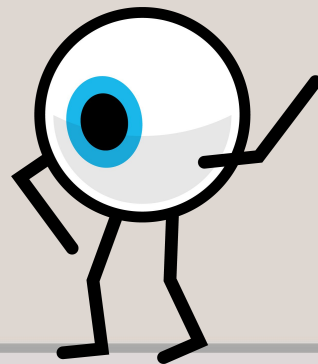


Vocabulary

Connotations and Denotations Unit 7B

You must be new here. Ready for
some words?

 15-20 mins



Part 1: Word list

Here comes a list of words.
Let's play ball!



Word list

doggedly

stubborn

strong-willed

spirited

slump

slip

childish

youthful

Part 2A: Introducing Connotations and Denotations

Are you ready to explore some more?



Denotation:

The literal meaning of a word

Connotation:

The suggested meanings or feelings associated with a particular word

Words with very similar denotations can have very distinct connotations.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>cheap</i> | reluctant to spend money | stingy, miserly, ungenerous |
| <i>frugal</i> | | economical, not wasteful |

Words with very similar denotations can have distinct connotations.

Examples:

*Raul was surprised that his brother was so **cheap** that he would not even chip in for his mother's birthday present.*

- The connotation of **cheap** gives Raul's spending habits a negative feeling.

*Wendy's **frugal** spending habits allowed her to save a lot of her babysitting money.*

- The connotation of **frugal** gives Wendy's spending habits a positive feeling.

Why understand connotations and denotations?

By selecting words based on their connotations, writers or speakers can evoke the ideas or feelings associated with that particular word.

"I'm still a very frugal person. But everything that does get spent is a reinvestment into my own music."

—Chance The Rapper

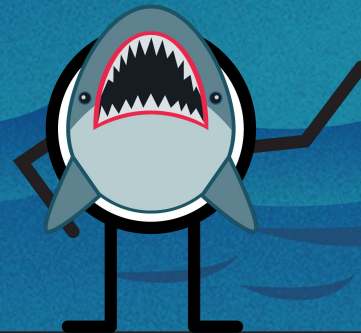
Question:

Why do you think Chance used the word *frugal* instead of *cheap*?

Part 2B: Using Connotations and Denotations



What? Is there something on my face?



Using **denotation/connotation** to select the just-right word:

1. Consider a word's denotation **and** connotation.
2. Select the word that best expresses the particular idea and feeling implied by the sentence.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>youthful</i> | young or young seeming | energetic, fun, lively |
| <i>childish</i> | | immature, babyish, unsophisticated |

Which word works best in the sentence below: *youthful* or *childish*?

I love going to visit my great aunt; we have a lot of fun together. Even though she is 86, she is very _____.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>youthful</i> | young or young seeming | energetic, fun, lively |
| <i>childish</i> | | immature, babyish, unsophisticated |

Which word do you think Lorraine Hansberry used in the sentence below: *youthful* or *childish*? Why do you think she chose it?

“RUTH (*Almost gently, with profound understanding*) You think you a woman, Bennie—but you still a little girl. What you did was _____—so you got treated like a child.”

(*A Raisin in the Sun*, Act I, Scene One, 325)

HINT: Ruth is telling off her sister-in-law, Beneatha, who just insulted her mother.

Correct response:

“RUTH (*Almost gently, with profound understanding*) You think you a woman, Bennie—but you still a little girl. What you did was *childish*—so you got treated like a child.”

(A Raisin in the Sun, Act I, Scene One, 325)

Part 3: Let's practice

Practice makes perfect! Are you ready? Moo.



Using **denotation/connotation** to select the just-right word:

1. Consider a word's denotation **and** connotation.
2. Select the word that best expresses the particular idea and feeling in the given sentence.

*I love going to visit my great aunt; we have a lot fun together. Even though she is 86, she is very **youthful** ~~childish~~.*

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>stubborn</i> | determined, set in purpose | obstinate, inflexible |
| <i>dogged</i> | | tenacious, persistent |

Which word works best in the sentence below: *stubborn* or *dogged*?

In spite of the number of years that had passed, her _____ pursuit of justice finally paid off with a guilty verdict for the criminals.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>stubborn</i> | determined, set in purpose | obstinate, inflexible |
| <i>dogged</i> | | tenacious, persistent |

Which word do you think the writer Lorraine Hansberry used in the sentence below: *stubborn* or *dogged*? Why do you think she chose it?

"If you don't take this comb and fix this here head, you better!...'Bout to march out of here with that head looking just like chickens slept in it! I just don't know where you get your _____ ways."

(*A Raisin in the Sun*, Act I, Scene One, 59)

HINT: Mama is trying to get Travis to comb his hair before he leaves for school.

Correct response:

“If you don’t take this comb and fix this here head, you better!...’Bout to march out of here with that head looking just like chickens slept in it! I just don’t know where you get your *stubborn* ways.”

(A Raisin in the Sun, Act I, Scene One, 59)

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>slide</i> | to lower, to move down | implies smoothly, unobtrusively |
| <i>slump</i> | | implies heavily, hopelessly |

Which word works best in the sentence below: *slid* or *slumped*?

Emory read the text as she boarded the bus. "We're done" was all it said, but those three words turned her heart to stone. She _____ in her seat, tears blurring her vision.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>slide</i> | to lower, to move down | implies smoothly, unobtrusively |
| <i>slump</i> | | implies heavily, hopelessly |

Which word do you think the writer Lorraine Hansberry used in the sentence below: *slide* or *slump*? Why do you think she chose it?

“MAMA Honey, Big Walter would come in here some nights back then and _____ down on that couch there and just look at the rug, and look at me and look at the rug and then back at me—and I’d know he was down then...really down.”

(*A Raisin in the Sun*, Act I, Scene One, 234)

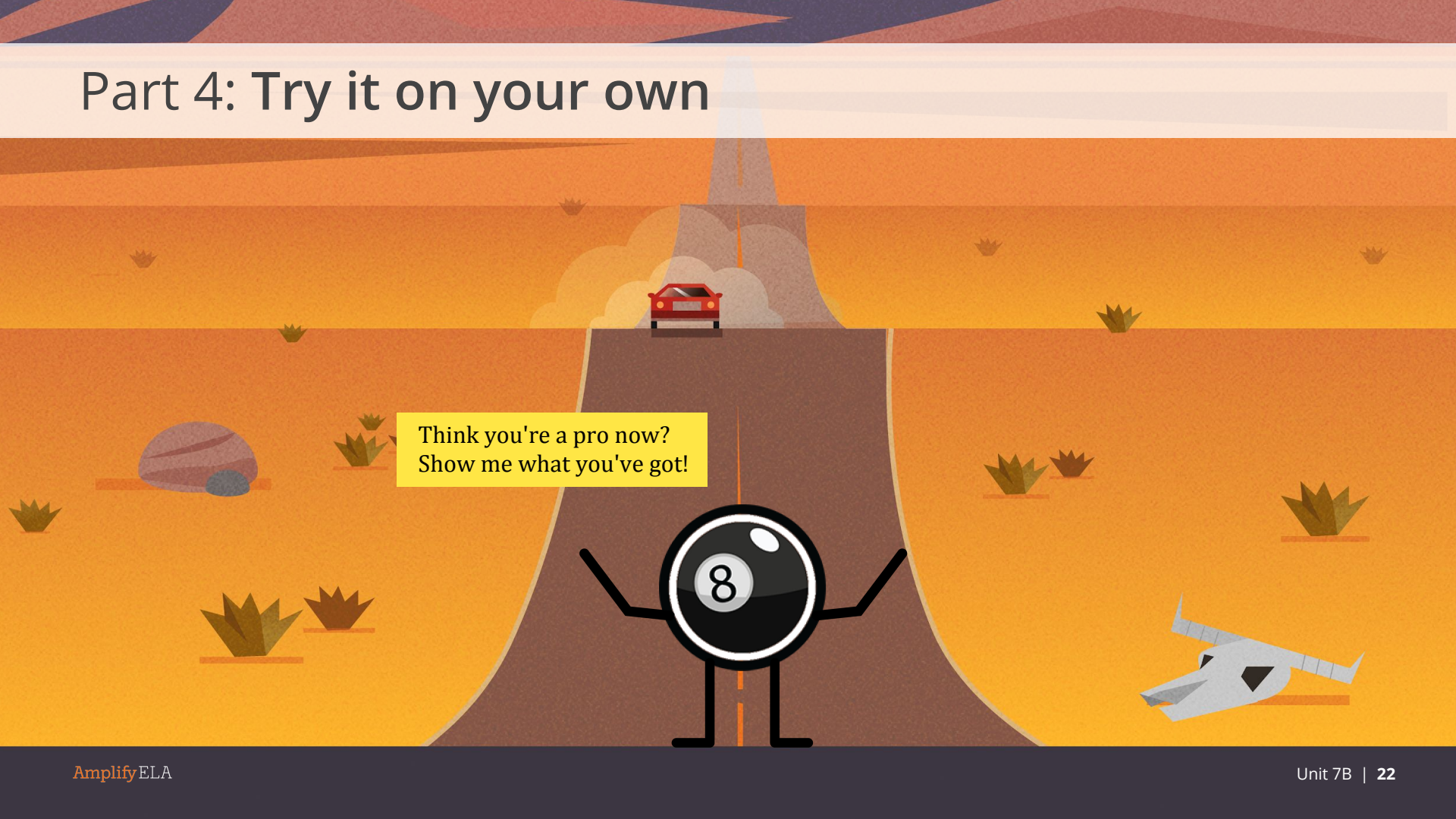
HINT: Mama is describing how her husband felt when he returned from work.

Correct response:

“MAMA Honey, Big Walter would come in here some nights back then and *slump* down on that couch there and just look at the rug, and look at me and look at the rug and then back at me—and I’d know he was down then...really down.”

(A Raisin in the Sun, Act I, Scene One, 234)

Part 4: Try it on your own

A cartoon illustration of a desert landscape. A road winds through the scene, with a red car driving away in the distance. In the foreground, a character shaped like a black bomb with a white circle containing the number '8' stands with arms raised. To the right of the bomb is a white skull. The background features orange and yellow hills, small green bushes, and a large rock on the left.

Think you're a pro now?
Show me what you've got!

New word task:

Writer Lorraine Hansberry uses a number of words to **denote** that someone (or something) is **set in purpose or determined**, each with distinct connotations.

| Words | Denotation | Connotations |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>dogged(ly)</i> | set in purpose or determined | tenacious, persistent |
| <i>spirited</i> | | spunky, resolute |
| <i>strong-willed</i> | | uncompromising, willful |

Instructions: Review each of the following quotes with a partner. Determine whether the connotation of the word in **blue** expresses a **positive**, **negative** or **neutral** feeling.

“MAMA (*Looking at her plant and sprinkling a little water on it*) They **spirited** all right, my children. Got to admit they got spirit—Bennie and Walter. Like this little old plant that ain’t never had enough sunshine or nothing—and look at it..”

(A Raisin in the Sun, Act I, Scene One, 333)

HINT: Mama is describing Beneatha and Walter’s ability to keep moving forward.



Turn and talk with a partner.

Discuss: Does **spirited** have **positive**, **negative** or **neutral** connotations in this sentence?

“She crosses through the room, goes to the window, opens it, and brings in a feeble little plant growing *doggedly* in a small pot on the windowsill.”

(A Raisin in the Sun, Act I, Scene One, 169)

HINT: Hansberry is describing Mama’s plant, which continues to grow despite being on an urban windowsill without much sunlight.



Turn and talk with a partner.

Discuss: Does *doggedly* have positive, negative or neutral connotations in this sentence?

“RUTH (*Soothingly, older than her years*) Now...you taking it all too seriously. You just got ***strong-willed*** children and it takes a strong woman like you to keep 'em in hand.”

(*A Raisin in the Sun*, Act I, Scene One, 169)

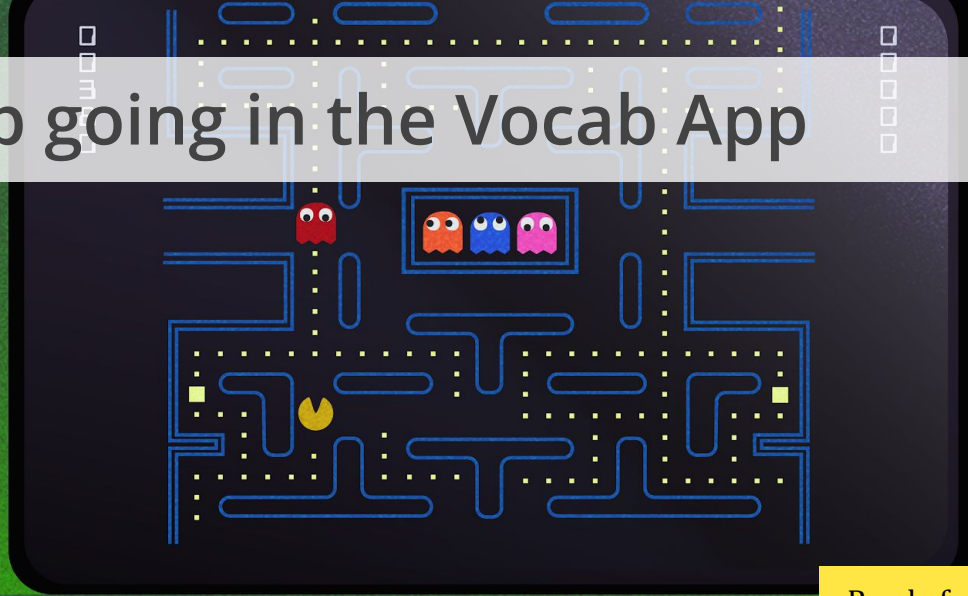
HINT: Ruth is describing Walter and Beneatha to Mama and trying to make Mama feel better about their behavior towards her.



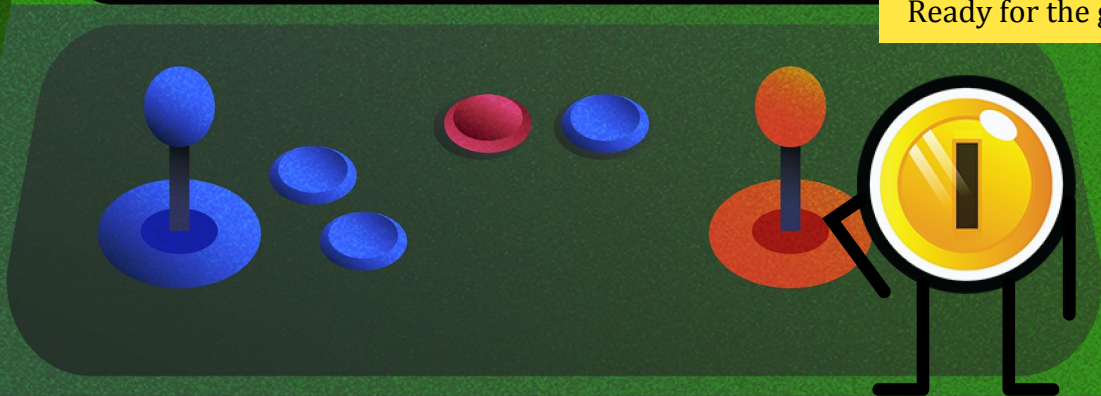
Turn and talk with a partner.

Discuss: Does ***strong-willed*** have **positive**, **negative** or **neutral** connotations in this sentence?

Part 5: Keep going in the Vocab App



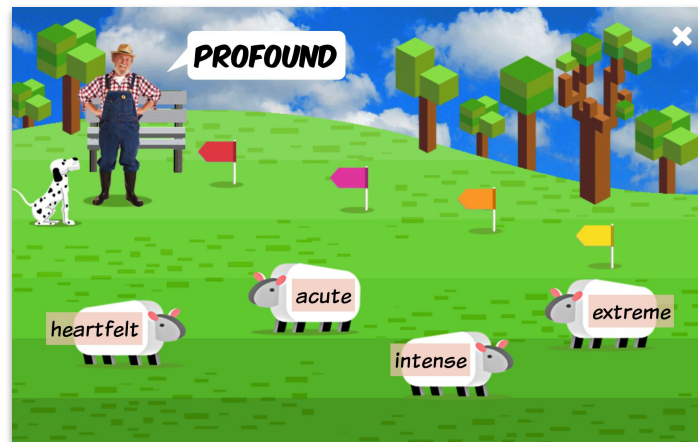
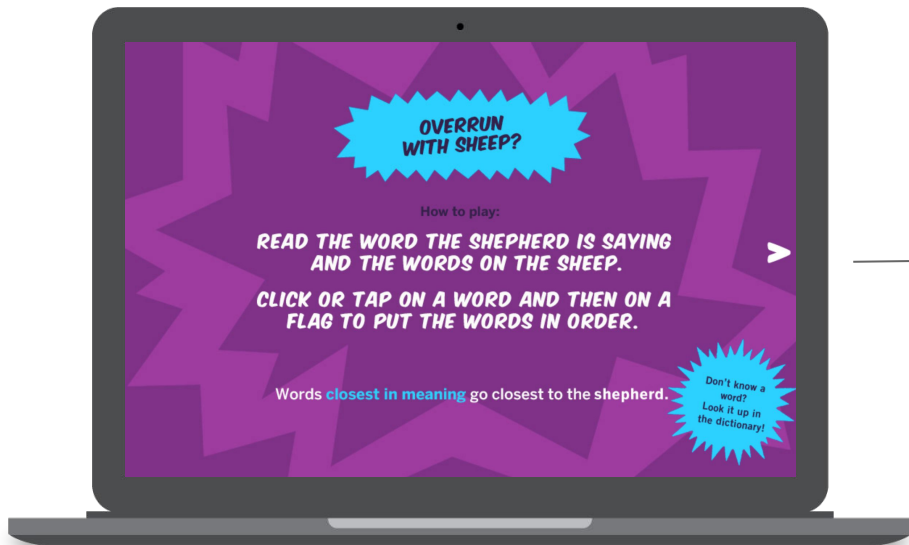
Ready for the game? I know I am.



Vocab App: Extreme Weather Vacation

Be ready to use **connotations** and **denotations** when you see this activity in the Vocab App!

In **Extreme Weather Vacation**, you'll explore word connotations further by ordering a word and its synonyms or antonyms according to shades of meaning.



Amplify ELA

All done. Nothing to see here.

