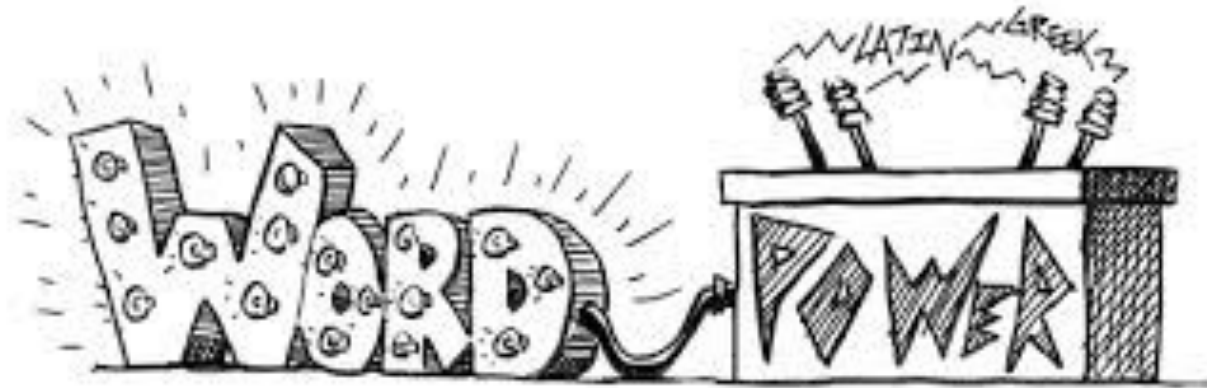


# Diction



The choice of a particular word *as opposed to others*.

- Experts tell us the French language has a vocabulary of about 125,000 words. The English language has a vocabulary of about half a million, not including technical or other specialized language.
- So, in English we can say exactly what we mean because we have so many synonyms.
- A writer could call a rock formation by many words – *a stone, a boulder, an outcropping, a pile of rocks, a cairn, a mound, or even an anomalous geological feature.*

The analytical reader then faces tough questions:

- ❑ Why that particular choice of words?
- ❑ What is the effect of that diction?
- ❑ What is the purpose of the piece?
- ❑ Are there words that contribute something significant to the piece through their connotations?

# Locate two people to work with...

- Each group has been assigned a term.
  1. Bad
  2. Neat
  3. Small
  4. Old
  5. Cold
  6. Nice
  7. Fake
- You will now have 5 minutes to come up with as many synonyms as you can.

Now, the whole class will add to your lists.

Bad

Neat

Small

Old

Cold

Nice

Fake

# CONNOTATION

The implied meaning of a word;  
(holds historical context and pop. culture.)

So in other words, connotation beats  
denotation every time in any conversation  
(or poetry, or literature, or anywhere your  
mind will wander)



The associated or secondary meaning of a word or expression in addition to its dictionary or primary meaning.

- Connotation is often described as having to do with **emotional, social, or other implications of a word**. The word “thin,” for example, can have a positive connotation of attractiveness in modern society, while it has a negative connotation when we use it to describe someone’s “disappearing” hair.
- Among other things, connotation often determines the audience's reaction to the object of description, thus helping the writer/speaker achieve a purpose. Connotation also contributes to style and tone.

A few more terms to be aware of:

**Colloquialism**- Language specific to a region

Map

**Jargon**- Language specific to a field ex:  
Megabyte, Simile, Proton

**Slang**- Ever changing words to replace  
already established names

**Euphemism**- Replacing a word with a less  
harsh word. Ex: Layed off vs. fired



# Each group has been assigned a group of words:

1. student, apprentice, disciple, junior, learner, novice, scholar, undergraduate
2. skinny, bony, angular, emaciated, gaunt, malnourished, scrawny, slender, willowy, thin, anorexic
3. run, amble, bound, dart, dash, gallop, lope, scamper, sprint
4. vacation, break, fiesta, furlough, holiday, intermission, layoff, recess, respite, sabbatical
5. busy, active, diligent, employed, occupied, unavailable, working
6. beautiful, hot, attractive, handsome, stunning, knockout, fine
7. fight, battle, conflict, disagreement, spat, brawl, combat

# Instructions:

- As a group, discuss the connotative and denotative meaning of each word. Define them both ways.
- Discuss/ explain the difference between the words' connotations and their denotations. (Dictionaries may be necessary!) When might one word be preferred over another?
- Be prepared to share out your findings.