
Denotative meaning: Dictionary definition of a word

Connotative meaning: Meaning with emotional, cultural, or contextual attachment

Every year Jon and Marvin wanted to do something different for the talent show. They wanted to do so because they didn't want to be thought of as being **vanilla**. This was something that definitely needed to be avoided. Jon and Marvin **tackled** this task with the same enthusiasm as they did planning summer vacation. By the end of their brainstorming, they had come up with a brilliant plan.

1. Read the following sentence from the passage.

They wanted to do this because they didn't want to be thought of as **vanilla**.

What is the connotation of the word **vanilla**?

- A. Jon and Marvin both do not like the taste of vanilla.
- B. Jon and Marvin like to be thought of as people.
- C. Jon and Marvin do not want to be considered boring.
- D. Jon and Marvin prefer to eat chocolate ice cream.

April was **consumed** with reading throughout the summer. There was nothing that she would rather be doing than reading an interesting book. She would **zip** through books as soon as she brought them home from the library. April would become so **absorbed** with reading that she would not pay attention to anything else. So all summer long, April would read.

2. Read the following sentence from the passage.

She would **zip** through books as soon as she brought them home from the library.

What is the connotation of the word **zip**?

- A. April has a zipper on her books.
- B. April closes her books tightly.
- C. April reads books very quickly.
- D. April keeps her books in a bag.

3.

José **snatched** the ball from his brother's hand and ran off, leaving his brother stunned.

What is the connotation of the word **snatched** in the sentence?

- A. José grabbed the ball very quickly.

- B. José caught the ball with his hands.
- C. José gripped the ball very tightly.
- D. José took the ball to play with it.

4. Rosa was trying to hold it together, but it was difficult when her cake was on the kitchen floor. She watched as pieces of the cake broke apart. Rosa, with a quivering lip, finally **dissolved** into tears. There was no more time to make another one.

What is the connotation of the word **dissolved**?

- A. Rosa messes up the cake with tears.
- B. Rosa begins to cry uncontrollably.
- C. Rosa shakes a lot while crying.
- D. Rosa disappears when she is wet.

5. The candy store was **bursting at its seams**. There were so many kids crammed into the store that there was barely any room to move.

What does the phrase **bursting at its seams** suggest about the candy store?

- A. The store sold a lot of candy.
- B. The store was extremely busy.
- C. The store was very small.
- D. The store liked to sell to kids

1.

The canoe sprang a leak so we were forced to bail with a bucket.

What is the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence above?

- A. jump out of the craft
- B. scoop water out
- C. post money
- D. find something

2.

When you feel your heart break, you're learning those blues.

Based on its context in the sentence above, what is the meaning of the word blues?

- A. musical style
 - B. Union soldier
 - C. low spirits
 - D. sky color
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3.

My puppy runs around in crazy circles; she's funny that way.

Based on its context in the sentence above, what is the meaning of the word funny?

- A. fake
 - B. difficult
 - C. peculiar
 - D. problem
-

4.

Anthony practices clarinet so often that soon he will master the instrument.

Based on its context in the sentence above, what is the meaning of the word master?

- A. commander
 - B. illegally copy
 - C. acquire complete skill in
 - D. rule over
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5.

Jacob had to read the manual before putting his new bike together.

The word manual in this sentence means

- A. pertaining to the hands.
- B. set of instructions.
- C. to do by hand.

D. using human effort.
