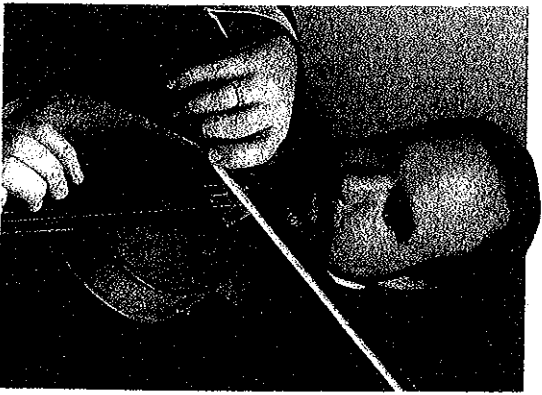


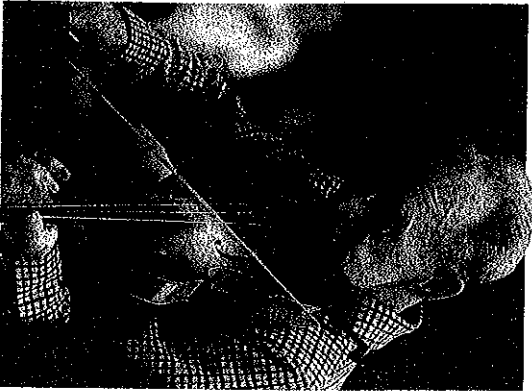
## Denotation and Connotation

Most words have two kinds of meaning. One, called *denotation*, is the meaning found in the dictionary. The other, called *connotation*, is an extra level of meaning. Connotation is the feeling or attitude a word expresses. For example, *violin* and *fiddle* have the same denotation, but the feelings they convey are different.

Samuel plays the violin.



Robert plays the fiddle.



The word *violin* is associated with classical music, the kind you would hear at symphony hall. The word *fiddle*, on the other hand, calls folk music and square dances to mind. Some words carry positive or negative connotations. *Thrifty* and *stingy* both mean "careful with money." *Thrifty*, however, suggests a good quality. *Stingy* conveys a negative quality.

POSITIVE CONNOTATION Rosa is thrifty.  
NEGATIVE CONNOTATION Rosa is stingy.

Choose specific words with appropriate connotations to match your meaning.

### EXERCISE 3 Finding Words with Similar Denotations

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then match each word in Group 1 with the word in Group 2 that has the same denotation.

- | Group 1   |                | Group 2  |          |
|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|
| 1. saw    | 6. young       | brainy   | officers |
| 2. hungry | 7. warning     | immature | tardy    |
| 3. tidy   | 8. intelligent | spied    | jogged   |
| 4. late   | 9. note        | message  | starving |
| 5. ran    | 10. police     | neat     | alarm    |

### EXERCISE 4 Choosing Connotations

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then write the word with the connotation called for in brackets.

EXAMPLE We went hiking on a (sunny, scorching) day.  
[negative]

ANSWER scorching

- Paul (snickered, giggled) at Jody's story. [positive]
- The beef stew Barbara made for dinner was (thick, gooey). [negative]
- In the summer Robert wears a (distinctive, peculiar) straw hat. [positive]
- The dance floor was (crammed, filled) with couples. [positive]
- The alarm clock (hummed, screeched) its wake-up call. [positive]
- During the student council meeting on Friday, Kathy (firmly, stubbornly) refused to follow the wishes of the majority. [negative]
- After winning the election, Sandra became more (confident, conceited). [negative]
- All of a sudden, a stranger stepped (boldly, brazenly) onto the speaker's platform. [positive]
- Ted has (bushy, curly) blond hair. [positive]
- The waves (pounded, washed) against the rocky Maine coast. [negative]