

## EXERCISE 1 Choosing Specific Words

Number your paper 1 to 20. Then write two specific words for each of the following general words.

EXAMPLE shoes

POSSIBLE ANSWERS sneakers, sandals

- |             |           |             |               |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. clothing | 6. pretty | 11. said    | 16. slowly    |
| 2. car      | 7. nice   | 12. walked  | 17. sadly     |
| 3. house    | 8. sad    | 13. ate     | 18. quickly   |
| 4. train    | 9. fine   | 14. laughed | 19. bravely   |
| 5. book     | 10. old   | 15. flew    | 20. playfully |

## EXERCISE 2 Replacing General Words with Specific Words

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then write a specific word to replace the underlined word or words in each sentence.

EXAMPLE Every year I go to scout camp.

POSSIBLE ANSWER July

1. Camp Manilokin is in another state.
2. The counselors plan many things to do.
3. On nature walks we sometimes see a deer running for cover.
4. Once a day we can pair up with a partner and take boats out on the lake.
5. The rules require partners because going swimming or boating without a companion is bad.
6. The counselors teach us how to make a fire and put it out well.
7. At night we sometimes cook marshmallows over the glowing embers.
8. We don't stay up late because a bell at 6:30 A.M. calls us to our meal.
9. Sometimes, however, we do talk past bedtime with our tent-mates.
10. After spending two weeks in the woods, I return home feeling good.

Summer  
Camp

## 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.

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Choose specific words with appropriate **connotations** to match your meaning.