

Vocabulary in Context

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Choose the letter of the word or phrase that has the same, or nearly the same, meaning as the boldfaced word.

1. a thrilling **narrative**: (a) argument, (b) story, (c) debate, (d) notice
2. **prop** for the play: (a) script, (b) costume, (c) object, (d) director
3. **relentless** noise: (a) constant, (b) deafening, (c) frightening, (d) occasional
4. to **smirk** at someone: (a) stare rudely, (b) laugh quietly, (c) yell loudly, (d) smile defiantly



VOCABULARY IN WRITING

If you had put on this play, how would you have designed the set? Write a paragraph describing your ideas. Use at least two vocabulary words in your description. Here is an example of how you might begin.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*I would have used some kind of **prop** for the snowflakes instead of people.*

VOCABULARY STRATEGY: DENOTATIONS AND CONNOTATIONS

A word's **denotation** is its literal meaning—that is, the meaning found in a dictionary definition. A word's **connotation** is the shades of meaning it may take on beyond its dictionary definition. It includes all the thoughts and feelings the word may bring to people's minds. For example, the vocabulary word *smirk* does mean "smile." But *smirk* also carries negative connotations of smugness or conceitedness. Recognizing connotations can improve both your reading and writing.

PRACTICE Using a dictionary, identify the denotative meanings of both words in each pair. Decide which of the two words has a negative connotation. Then use it in a sentence to show the negative meaning.

1. a (serious, dull) speech
2. her (funny, ridiculous) hat
3. (obsessed, enthusiastic) about the project
4. a (youthful, childish) outlook
5. (impatient, eager) to get started
6. a (tangy, bitter) taste

