

Connotations

Look at the advert and then look at the discussion questions.



Discussion:

1. What is opium?
2. Using an English to English dictionary, can you find a synonym for opium?
3. Share what you found with your partner. Did you find the same words?
4. Do you think Opium is a good choice for a perfume? Why / why not?
5. Heroin is also made from poppies, why would producers not call a perfume 'Heroin'?

crime / misery /
addiction / needles /
junkies

poetry / decadence /
romance / luxury

OUP definition of connotation:

An idea or feeling which a word invokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

e.g.

'the word 'discipline' has unhappy connotations of punishment and repression'

Activity 1

Look at the sentences below and fit in the best of the four words into them

Good value

cheap

affordable

inexpensive

1. When they first came out they were really expensive, but in the last few months they are more _____.
2. I went into the shop and they had a sale on, and some of the clothes were really _____ especially considering how well they were made.
3. My new bag broke a few weeks after I bought it, but it was _____ so I suppose it isn't so surprising.

Activity 2

Look back at the picture of the model advertising the perfume. Which of these adjectives would you use to describe her?

Thin

skinny

slender

slim

What difference is there between these words? Which have positive, neutral or negative connotations?

Activity 3

a chatty person

a gossip

a chatterbox

Choose which person would:

1. be a bad person to tell a secret to
2. be a good person to be stuck in a lift with
3. an annoying person to be stuck in a lift with.

Which word would be the best synonym for talkative? Is there a difference?

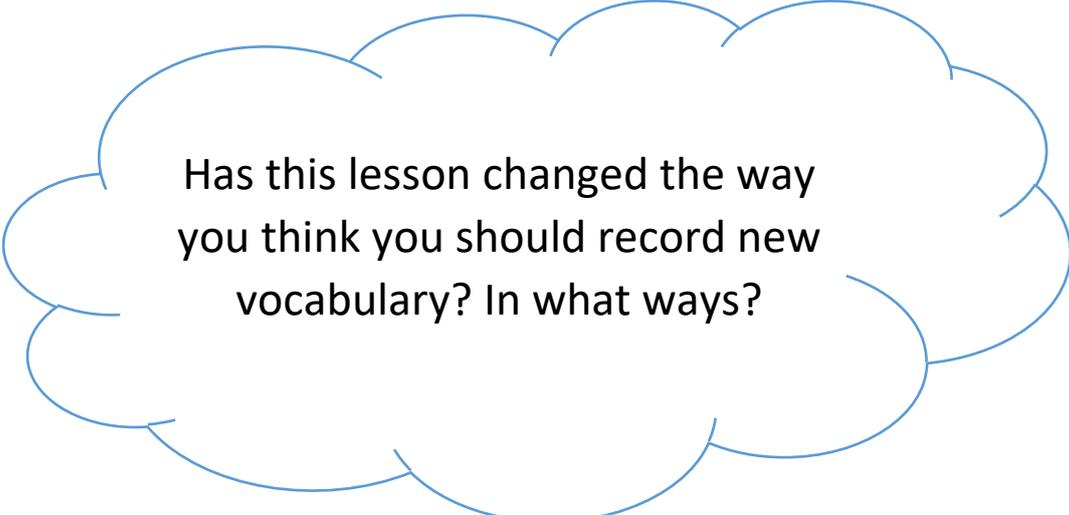
Activity 4

Look at this paragraph about a party the speaker attended recently.

1. Underline the words that you have seen in the lesson so far.

“So, last week I went to a party with a friend, she’s lovely but she is a bit of a chatterbox, so I know I can never tell her too much. Anyway, when we got to the party we went to the kitchen to find some food. I wasn’t expecting anything amazing, but I really did hope that there would be something other than affordable crisps. If I had known, I would have brought some nibbles myself. There again, I am supposed to be on a bit of a diet. I don’t want to get too slender, but I would like to be a bit slimmer. The party was ok I suppose, I didn’t stay long, especially after I got stuck talking to this one guy. He was a chatterbox and friendly, but so boring. I didn’t spend any money though, so it was a good value evening I suppose. That’s something!”

2. Which of the words do you think should be changed to make the speaker make more sense?



Has this lesson changed the way you think you should record new vocabulary? In what ways?