**Vocabulary Word Study Conventions**

**Idiom**:

A figure of speech; words are not interpreted literally.

Idioms are informal expressions that are unique to every language.

They should be used sparingly in formal writing.

Example: “Mad as a March hare,” means “Foolish” or “showing little reason.

**Denotation:**

The strict or literal **definition** of a word.

The word’s meaning in the dictionary.

It is neutral or has no feeling attached to it.

**Connotation:**

Feelings or emotions associated with a word.

It can be a positive or negative feeling.

Example: The word “Aggressive” has a negative connotation associated with it.

The word “Ambitious” has a positive connotation associated with it.

**Proverb:**

A short saying that summarizes a universal truth.

**Adage:**

A brief saying that offers a bit of advice.