

Strategy 4

Use negation to define a word.

Negation tells what a word *does not* (only or necessarily) *mean*. Often, it is just a unique way to think about a word.

Common Phrases for Negation

_____ does not necessarily mean _____
(word) (Example: Quiet does not necessarily mean shy.^(fill in))

_____ does not only mean _____
(word) (Example: Beautiful does not only mean physical attractiveness.^(fill in))

_____ is not someone who just _____
(word) (Example: An extrovert is not someone who just talks a lot.)

_____ is not something that just _____
(word) (Example: A good job is not something that just pays a lot of money.)

Weak negation: *Beautiful* does not mean *ugly*. (This is obvious.)

Exercise 4

① Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.
② Double-underline the “Common Phrases for Negation” that were used.

evil lose problems over and over
 money physical suffering look good

1. In contrast to what many people think, “happiness” does not necessarily mean that a person is free of problems. A person can have problems, yet still be happy if they have a positive attitude.
2. “Pain” does not only mean _____. It can also be mental.
3. Many people don’t appreciate good shoes. Good shoes are not something that just _____. They are like our best friends because they are with us many hours every day.
4. There is a common misunderstanding about the word “diet.” A diet does not necessarily mean a routine that we follow in order to _____ weight. My brother was on a diet to gain weight when he joined the football team.
5. A wealthy person is not someone who just has a lot of _____. People who are truly wealthy feel as if they have everything that they want.

6. A bad leader is not someone who is just _____. A bad leader might be a good person who has weak leadership skills.
7. “A habit” does not necessarily mean something that we do _____. For example, we eat dinner every evening, but that doesn’t mean that it is a habit.
