

# Diction ①

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE:   /  /    
WEEK:    :    PERIOD:    #   

## Consider:

Once I am sure there's nothing going on  
I step inside, letting the door **thud** shut.

— Philip Larkin, "Church Going"

## Discuss:

1. What feelings are evoked by the word *thud*?
2. How would the meaning change if the speaker let the door *slam* shut?

## Apply:

3. Fill in the following chart. In the first column, record five different verbs which express the closing of a door; in the second column, record the feelings these verbs evoke.

Verbs expressing the closing of a door	Feeling evoked by the verb
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

# Diction (12)

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## Consider:

We have been making policy on the basis of myths, the first of them that trade with China will **dulcify** Peking policy. That won't work; there was plenty of trade between North and South when **our** Civil War came on.

— William F. Buckley, Jr., "Like It or Not, Pat Buchanan's Political Rhetoric Has True Grit"

## Discuss:

- ① What does *dulcify* mean? What attitude toward his readers does his diction convey?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ② What attitude does Buckley communicate by writing *our* Civil War instead of *the* Civil War?

## Apply:

- ③ Fill in the following chart, substituting uncommon words for the common, boldface word in the sentence below. Your new words should change the connotative meaning of the sentence. Use your thesaurus to find unusual words. Share your chart with a partner.

She gazed at the **tidy** room.

Synonym for *tidy*

Effect on the meaning of the sentence

Synonym for <i>tidy</i>	Effect on the meaning of the sentence