

# Diction

## 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:

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**

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