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Word of the Day – **Construe**

Transcript

The word of the day today is **construe**. **Construe** is a verb. To **construe** is to interpret something in a certain way based on the situation or existing set of criteria.

For instance, let's say you have noticed your roommate has been acting strange lately. You don't know what is up, but you think she is planning something. She keeps asking about your schedule and is secretive and elusive when you ask her why she keeps asking about your upcoming plans. Given your birthday is this weekend, you **construe** that she is planning a surprise birthday party. There is no other explanation for her uncommon interest in your life.

In another example, let's say you are teaching a class on Reading Comprehension. Your students all seem bright but there is limited feedback. They do not volunteer any answers and do not participate in your attempts at discussion. You **construe** their apathetic behavior as a sign that this novel may be too difficult for them to comprehend. However, one student finally shares that they have already read this novel the previous semester. So in this case, you have **misconstrued** their actions.

I hope you find this word useful in expressing your thoughts more clearly. For more information you can find the script on our homepage.