Word Feeling Sort

Sort words by the feeling they give.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.5c "Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, unwasteful, thrifty)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

This word has a positive association. It makes a person, action, or thing sound good or worthy.

slender: thin in an attractive way

NEGATIVE ASSOCIATION

This word has a negative association. It makes a person, action, or thing sound bad or unpleasant.

scrawny: very thin in an unhealthy-looking way

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE for each phrase; Part 2, PROVE IT: choose two items and explain which association helped you decide.

1.	thrifty shopper	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
2.	economical plan	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
3.	stingy neighbor	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
4.	persistent runner	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
5.	stubborn teammate	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
6.	nosy visitor	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
7.	inquisitive scientist	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
8.	modest winner	POSITIVE NEGATIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with a POSITIVE association and one new word with a NEGATIVE association.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two words with similar definitions, one POSITIVE and one NEGATIVE. Then explain the different feeling each word gives.

ANSWER KEY # Word Feeling Sort

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	thrifty shopper	**POSITIVE**	Thrifty suggests using money carefully and wisely.
2	economical plan	**POSITIVE**	Economical suggests saving resources or money wisely.
3	stingy neighbor	**NEGATIVE**	Stingy suggests being unwilling to share or spend.
4	persistent runner	**POSITIVE**	Persistent suggests continuing with effort.
5	stubborn teammate	**NEGATIVE**	Stubborn suggests refusing to change or listen.
6	nosy visitor	**NEGATIVE**	Nosy suggests unwanted curiosity about others' private business.
7	inquisitive scientist	**POSITIVE**	Inquisitive suggests an eager, thoughtful desire to learn.
8	modest winner	**POSITIVE**	Modest suggests not bragging about success.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **POSITIVE**: generous
- **NEGATIVE**: wasteful

Challenge: Confident is POSITIVE because it suggests belief in yourself. Arrogant is NEGATIVE because it suggests thinking you are better than others.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the positive or negative feeling and connect it to the word. For the challenge, accept accurate pairs with similar meanings and clearly different associations.