

Word Vibes

Similar meanings can carry different feelings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.5c "Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

POSITIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a positive connotation has an approving or pleasant association. It can make a person, action, or thing seem good.

Frugal means careful with money and has a positive association.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a negative connotation has a disapproving or unpleasant association. It can make a person, action, or thing seem bad.

Cheap can mean careful with money, but it has a negative association.

1 SORT 8 items

For each word, circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE, then in Part 2 choose two words and explain which association helped you decide.

1. persistent

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

2. observant

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

3. nosy

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

4. slender

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

5. skinny

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

6. arrogant

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

7. confident

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

8. stubborn

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 connotation and one new word with a NEGATIVE connotation. Choose two words that have related meanings.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using two new words with similar definitions, one with a positive connotation and one with a negative connotation. Label each word POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	persistent	POSITIVE	Persistent suggests admirable effort and refusal to give up.
2	observant	POSITIVE	Observant suggests careful, useful attention to details.
3	nosy	NEGATIVE	Nosy suggests unwanted interest in other people's private business.
4	slender	POSITIVE	Slender usually suggests an attractive thin appearance.
5	skinny	NEGATIVE	Skinny often suggests an unattractively or unhealthily thin appearance.
6	arrogant	NEGATIVE	Arrogant suggests an unpleasant belief that one is better than others.
7	confident	POSITIVE	Confident suggests healthy belief in one's own abilities.
8	stubborn	NEGATIVE	Stubborn suggests an unreasonable refusal to change one's mind.

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:** assertive (POSITIVE)
- **NEGATIVE:** bossy (NEGATIVE)

Challenge: The thrifty (POSITIVE) shopper found sales, but the stingy (NEGATIVE) shopper refused to share a coupon.

For Part 3 and the challenge, accept accurate related word pairs with correctly identified connotations. For Part 2, accept explanations that name the approving or disapproving feeling suggested by each chosen word.