

Word Feeling Sort

Sort similar words by the feeling they suggest.

6.L.V.3.c “Distinguish between the connotations of words that share a similar denotation (e.g., confident, assertive, egotistic, pompous, smug). (1)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

POSITIVE CONNOTATION

A positive connotation gives a word a favorable feeling. It can make a person seem worthy of respect.

The neighbor is generous.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A negative connotation gives a word an unfavorable feeling. It can make a person seem unpleasant or annoying.

The neighbor is greedy.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each word; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which feeling each word suggests.

1. confident

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

2. smug

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

3. pompous

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

4. assertive

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

5. self-assured

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

6. poised

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

7. egotistic

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

8. proud

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

For Part 3, write one new word with a positive connotation and one new word with a negative connotation.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using two similar-meaning words, one positive and one negative, then write a second sentence explaining the difference in feeling.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	confident	POSITIVE	Suggests healthy belief in oneself.
2	smug	NEGATIVE	Suggests overly pleased with oneself.
3	pompous	NEGATIVE	Suggests acting as if one is more important than others.
4	assertive	POSITIVE	Suggests speaking up clearly and confidently.
5	self-assured	POSITIVE	Suggests calm confidence.
6	poised	POSITIVE	Suggests calm, confident self-control.
7	egotistic	NEGATIVE	Suggests excessive focus on oneself.
8	proud	POSITIVE	Suggests satisfaction in an achievement or quality.

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:** self-reliant
- **NEGATIVE:** cocky

Challenge: Rina was frugal with her allowance, but Ted was stingy with his. Both words describe careful spending, but frugal sounds wise and stingy sounds selfish.

Accept reasonable explanations that name the favorable or unfavorable feeling suggested by each selected word. Students may choose any two sort items for Part 2.