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). (I)"

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.

ANSWER KEY

Word Feeling Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.3.c

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