

Word Feeling Sort

Notice the feeling a word adds.

7.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 word with a positive connotation makes a person or idea sound favorable. It can show approval or respect.
resourceful

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a negative connotation makes a person or idea sound unfavorable. It can suggest criticism or disapproval.
sneaky

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE for each word, then choose two words and explain which feeling each word carries.

1. self-assured

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

2. poised

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

3. arrogant

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

4. assertive

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

5. smug

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

6. egotistic

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

7. confident

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

8. pompous

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.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same person. Use and underline a positive-connotation word in one sentence and a negative-connotation word in the other.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	self-assured	POSITIVE	It suggests calm, favorable confidence.
2	poised	POSITIVE	It suggests composed confidence.
3	arrogant	NEGATIVE	It suggests an unpleasant belief that one is better than others.
4	assertive	POSITIVE	It suggests confident, respectful expression of ideas.
5	smug	NEGATIVE	It suggests annoying self-satisfaction.
6	egotistic	NEGATIVE	It suggests excessive concern with oneself.
7	confident	POSITIVE	It suggests a favorable belief in one's abilities.
8	pompous	NEGATIVE	It suggests an exaggerated sense of importance.

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:** capable
- **NEGATIVE:** conceited

Challenge: Maya sounded self-assured when she shared her plan. Maya seemed boastful when she said no one else had useful ideas.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a favorable or unfavorable feeling and connect it to the chosen word. For Part 3, accept accurate words that fit the assigned connotation.