Words With Attitude

Sort words by the feeling they suggest.

7.4.R.2 "Students will use context clues, connotation, and denotation to determine or clarify the meaning of words or distinguish among multiple-meaning words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSITIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a positive connotation suggests a good quality or creates a pleasant feeling beyond its basic meaning. Use clues in the sentence to check that feeling.

The **radiant** sunrise turned the harbor gold.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a negative connotation suggests a bad quality or creates an unpleasant feeling beyond its basic meaning. Use clues in the sentence to check that feeling.

A **dreary** fog hid the empty pier.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each bold word, then choose two numbered items and explain how the word and its context helped you decide.

1.	Mina was **generous** and shared her extra pencils with classmates.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
2.	The **reckless** cyclist sped through a crowded walkway without looking.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
3.	The **greedy** player grabbed all the game pieces and refused to share.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
4.	A **thoughtful** neighbor left soup for the sick family.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
5.	The **brave** swimmer jumped in to help a child reach shore.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
6.	The **rude** guest interrupted the speaker three times.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
7.	The **resourceful** camper fixed a torn bag with spare string.	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
8.	Our **dependable** teammate arrived on time and kept every promise.	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 two original sentences, one using a word with a positive connotation and one using a word with a negative connotation. Underline the word in each sentence.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about a person who asks many questions. Use a positive word in one and a negative word in the other, and underline each word. Then write one sentence explaining how the feeling changes.

ANSWER KEY # Words With Attitude

GRADE 7 · 7.4.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mina was **generous** and shared her extra pencils with classmates.	**POSITIVE**	Generous praises Mina's willingness to share.
2	The **reckless** cyclist sped through a crowded walkway without looking.	**NEGATIVE**	Reckless criticizes the cyclist for ignoring others' safety.
3	The **greedy** player grabbed all the game pieces and refused to share.	**NEGATIVE**	Greedy criticizes the player's selfish behavior.
4	A **thoughtful** neighbor left soup for the sick family.	**POSITIVE**	Thoughtful praises the neighbor's care for the family.
5	The **brave** swimmer jumped in to help a child reach shore.	**POSITIVE**	Brave praises the swimmer's courage in helping the child.
6	The **rude** guest interrupted the speaker three times.	**NEGATIVE**	Rude criticizes the guest's disrespectful interruptions.
7	The **resourceful** camper fixed a torn bag with spare string.	**POSITIVE**	Resourceful praises the camper's ability to solve a problem.
8	Our **dependable** teammate arrived on time and kept every promise.	**POSITIVE**	Dependable praises the teammate's reliability.

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**: The kindhearted coach stayed late to help a beginner.
- **NEGATIVE**: The cruel bully laughed when someone dropped a notebook.

Challenge: The curious student asked about the experiment. The nosy student asked about the experiment. Curious sounds eager to learn, while nosy sounds too interested in others' business.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect the word's feeling to a clue in its sentence. For example, reckless is negative because speeding without looking puts others at risk.