Words With Attitude

Use context to spot the feeling a word adds.

10.4.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's denotation is its literal meaning. A positive connotation adds a feeling of approval. Look for nearby words that support that feeling.

The kitten's **playful** leaps delighted its owner.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A negative connotation adds a feeling of disapproval to a word's literal meaning. Look for nearby words that support that feeling.

The gatekeeper's **hostile** reply drove visitors away.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE for each bold word; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain which nearby words helped you decide.

1.	The neighbors admired Lena's **resourceful** use of rainwater to keep the garden alive.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
2.	The teacher praised Malik's **thorough** research for its careful use of sources.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
3.	The review called the room **cramped** because the bed blocked the door.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
4.	The speaker's **rambling** answer wandered off topic and tested everyone's patience.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
5.	The volunteers welcomed Ana's **generous** offer to share her supplies.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
6.	The team appreciated Bo's **steady** leadership during the stressful final minutes.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
7.	The judges praised the artist's **inventive** use of recycled paper.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
8.	The class disliked the guest's **smug** grin when he called their questions foolish.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain which nearby words helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

_____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

_____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new sentence with a bold word that has a positive connotation and one with a bold word that has a negative connotation. Include a context clue in each sentence.

POSITIVE _____

_____

NEGATIVE _____

_____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences using **unusual**: make it sound positive in one and negative in the other, and underline the context clues that create each feeling.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

ANSWER KEY

Words With Attitude

GRADE 10 · 10.4.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The neighbors admired Lena's **resourceful** use of rainwater to keep the garden alive.	**POSITIVE**	"Admired" shows approval of Lena's practical solution.
2	The teacher praised Malik's **thorough** research for its careful use of sources.	**POSITIVE**	"Praised" and "careful use of sources" show approval.
3	The review called the room **cramped** because the bed blocked the door.	**NEGATIVE**	The blocked door shows that the room's small size is a problem.
4	The speaker's **rambling** answer wandered off topic and tested everyone's patience.	**NEGATIVE**	"Wandered off topic" and "tested everyone's patience" show disapproval.
5	The volunteers welcomed Ana's **generous** offer to share her supplies.	**POSITIVE**	"Welcomed" shows approval of Ana's offer.
6	The team appreciated Bo's **steady** leadership during the stressful final minutes.	**POSITIVE**	"Appreciated" shows that Bo's leadership was valued.
7	The judges praised the artist's **inventive** use of recycled paper.	**POSITIVE**	"Praised" shows approval of the artist's approach.
8	The class disliked the guest's **smug** grin when he called their questions foolish.	**NEGATIVE**	"Disliked" and "called their questions foolish" show disapproval.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain which nearby words helped you decide.
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 hikers valued Priya's **perceptive** observation because it helped them find the trail.
- **NEGATIVE**: The manager's **callous** response ignored the workers' concerns.

Challenge: The unusual design earned praise for its clever use of space. The unusual odor made everyone leave the room in disgust.

For Part 2, answers vary. Item 2 can be supported by "praised," while item 4 can be supported by "tested everyone's patience."