Words With Attitude

Sort words by the feelings they add.

6.4.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 basic meaning. A positive connotation adds a good feeling to that meaning.

The **fragrant** tea warmed the room.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A negative connotation adds an unpleasant or critical feeling to a word's basic meaning.

The **stinky** sneakers filled the closet.

1 SORT

8 items

SORT: Circle the category for each bold word; PROVE IT: Choose two items and explain how the word's feeling and a clue in its sentence helped you decide.

1.	The **thrifty** camper repaired her backpack instead of buying a new one.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
2.	The **courageous** lifeguard swam toward the stranded child.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
3.	The **nosy** neighbor peeked through our fence.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
4.	The **resourceful** student turned a cardboard box into a robot costume.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
5.	The **bossy** captain ordered everyone around without listening.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
6.	The **clumsy** waiter spilled juice on three guests.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
7.	The **persistent** runner kept training after a slow race.	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
8.	The **generous** shopkeeper gave extra bread to hungry families.	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

MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new sentence with a bold word that has a positive connotation and one with a bold word that has a negative connotation.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same action, using a different underlined word in each sentence. Choose words with similar basic meanings but opposite connotations.

ANSWER KEY # Words With Attitude

GRADE 6 · 6.4.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The **thrifty** camper repaired her backpack instead of buying a new one.	**POSITIVE**	Thrifty praises careful spending, and repairing the backpack shows that care.
2	The **courageous** lifeguard swam toward the stranded child.	**POSITIVE**	Courageous praises bravery, which the rescue shows.
3	The **nosy** neighbor peeked through our fence.	**NEGATIVE**	Nosy criticizes unwanted interest, and peeking supports that meaning.
4	The **resourceful** student turned a cardboard box into a robot costume.	**POSITIVE**	Resourceful praises the student's creative use of what was available.
5	The **bossy** captain ordered everyone around without listening.	**NEGATIVE**	Bossy criticizes controlling behavior, and the captain does not listen.
6	The **clumsy** waiter spilled juice on three guests.	**NEGATIVE**	Clumsy is critical, and the repeated spills support it.
7	The **persistent** runner kept training after a slow race.	**POSITIVE**	Persistent praises continued effort despite a setback.
8	The **generous** shopkeeper gave extra bread to hungry families.	**POSITIVE**	Generous praises giving to others, as the shopkeeper does.

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 **delightful** music filled the hall.
- **NEGATIVE**: The **rude** passenger interrupted the driver.

Challenge: The determined explorer kept searching. The stubborn explorer kept searching.

For PROVE IT, acceptable answers name the word's positive or negative feeling and connect it to a sentence clue. For example, item 3 suggests unwanted interest because the neighbor peeks through a fence, while item 7 praises effort because the runner keeps training.