Words With Attitude

Sort words by the feeling they suggest.

9.4.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 something good or admirable. Use the rest of the sentence to check that feeling.

The **radiant** mural made the hallway feel cheerful.

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a negative connotation suggests something unpleasant or worthy of criticism. Use the rest of the sentence to check that feeling.

The **garish** mural made the hallway feel harsh.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE to show the connotation of the bold word.

1. Lena's **thrifty** shopping kept the class project under budget. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
2. The **curious** student asked how the telescope worked. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
3. His **nosy** questions about my private messages made me uneasy. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
4. A **bold** rescue brought the stranded hiker to safety. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
5. The **reckless** driver ignored the ice and nearly hit a cyclist. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
6. The **stingy** host refused to share even one spare blanket. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
7. The **persistent** scientist tested a new idea after several failed trials. POSITIVE NEGATIVE
8. Her **thoughtful** note helped her friend feel less alone. POSITIVE NEGATIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how the bold word and a clue in its sentence helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a positive word and one with a negative word; bold the word in each sentence.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same action, using words with similar basic meanings but opposite connotations; underline those words.

ANSWER KEY # Words With Attitude

GRADE 9 · 9.4.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Lena's **thrifty** shopping kept the class project under budget.	**POSITIVE**	Thrifty praises careful spending, and staying under budget supports that meaning.
2	The **curious** student asked how the telescope worked.	**POSITIVE**	Curious suggests an interest in learning.
3	His **nosy** questions about my private messages made me uneasy.	**NEGATIVE**	Nosy criticizes unwanted interest in private matters.
4	A **bold** rescue brought the stranded hiker to safety.	**POSITIVE**	Bold praises courage in a successful rescue.
5	The **reckless** driver ignored the ice and nearly hit a cyclist.	**NEGATIVE**	Reckless criticizes dangerous carelessness.
6	The **stingy** host refused to share even one spare blanket.	**NEGATIVE**	Stingy criticizes an unwillingness to share.
7	The **persistent** scientist tested a new idea after several failed trials.	**POSITIVE**	Persistent praises continued effort despite setbacks.
8	Her **thoughtful** note helped her friend feel less alone.	**POSITIVE**	Thoughtful praises care for another person's feelings.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how the bold word and a clue in its sentence 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 **graceful** dancer moved smoothly across the stage.
- **NEGATIVE**: The **clumsy** dancer knocked over a prop.

Challenge: The candidate gave a confident speech at the assembly. The candidate gave an arrogant speech at the assembly.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the word's connotation and cite a relevant clue from each sentence. For example, item 1 praises careful spending through “under budget,” while item 3 criticizes intrusive questions through “made me uneasy.”