

Word Shade Sort

Compare similar words and notice their different feelings.

7.RV.1.F "Distinguish among the nuances in the meaning of connotations of words with similar denotations."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FIRST IS MORE FAVORABLE

Choose FIRST when the first word in the pair has a more positive or approving connotation than the second word.

generous / wasteful. Generous has the more favorable connotation.

SECOND IS MORE FAVORABLE

Choose SECOND when the second word in the pair has a more positive or approving connotation than the first word.

peculiar / distinctive. Distinctive has the more favorable connotation.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, read each pair and circle FIRST if the first word is more favorable or SECOND if the second word is more favorable; for Part 2, choose two pairs and explain which word has the more favorable connotation and what feeling makes it more favorable.

1. slim / scrawny	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
2. thrifty / stingy	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
3. pushy / assertive	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
4. childlike / childish	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
5. odor / aroma	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
6. nosy / curious	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
7. stubborn / determined	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND
8. confident / arrogant	☐ FIRST	☐ SECOND

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

For Part 3, write one pair of similar words where the first word is more favorable, then write one pair where the second word is more favorable.

FIRST

SECOND

CHALLENGE

Choose one pair you wrote. Write one sentence using the more favorable word, then explain why that word fits a positive situation better than the other word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	slim / scrawny	FIRST	Both describe being thin, but slim is approving and scrawny suggests being unattractively thin.
2	thrifty / stingy	FIRST	Both describe careful spending, but thrifty is approving and stingy suggests an unwillingness to share or spend.
3	pushy / assertive	SECOND	Both can describe pursuing an idea strongly, but pushy is negative and assertive is more approving.
4	childlike / childish	FIRST	Both relate to children, but childlike suggests innocence or wonder and childish suggests immaturity.
5	odor / aroma	SECOND	Both describe smells, but aroma is usually pleasant and odor often suggests an unpleasant smell.
6	nosy / curious	SECOND	Both describe wanting information, but nosy suggests interfering in private matters and curious is more neutral or positive.
7	stubborn / determined	SECOND	Both describe not giving up, but stubborn suggests unreasonable refusal and determined suggests a positive purpose.
8	confident / arrogant	FIRST	Both can describe belief in oneself, but confident is approving and arrogant suggests thinking too highly of oneself.

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)

- **FIRST:** brave / reckless
- **SECOND:** strange / unique

Challenge: The brave firefighter entered the burning building to rescue a child. Brave praises courage, while reckless would suggest unsafe action without enough care.

Accept reasonable pairs when both words have similar denotations and the student correctly identifies the more favorable connotation. In Part 2, explanations should name the different feeling or judgment created by each word.