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.

ANSWER KEY # Word Shade Sort

GRADE 7 · 7.RV.1.F

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 any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.