

Name _____

Denotation and Connotation

A word's denotation is its dictionary definition. But a word can also evoke certain thoughts and feelings. The thoughts and feelings associated with a certain word are called the connotation of the word. Words with the same denotation can have different connotations. Connotations can be positive, negative or neutral.



DIRECTIONS: Each pair of phrases includes synonyms with different connotations. Put a + sign on the line next to the one with a positive connotation, and a – on the line next to the one with a negative connotation.

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. | A strong reek | _____ | 6. | Spoke with arrogance | _____ |
| | A strong aroma | _____ | | Spoke with confidence | _____ |
| 2. | A charismatic leader | _____ | 7. | Ratty clothes | _____ |
| | A pushy leader | _____ | | Casual clothes | _____ |
| 3. | Squandered his time | _____ | 8. | An aggressive stance | _____ |
| | Invested his time | _____ | | A hostile stance | _____ |
| 4. | A bold plan | _____ | 9. | Easygoing attitude | _____ |
| | A reckless plan | _____ | | Lazy attitude | _____ |
| 5. | Energetic dogs | _____ | 10. | Thoughtful response | _____ |
| | Rambunctious dogs | _____ | | Calculated response | _____ |