

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Connotation | Denotation

# 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 _____     |