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

LIVEWORKSHEETS