

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.

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| 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 _____ |