

Writing With Connotation

Connotation is the feeling or idea that goes along with a word or phrase. Some words are close in meaning but have different connotations.

Think about the words **inquisitive** and **nosy**. They both mean curious, but they have different connotations.

■ **Inquisitive** has a positive connotation. It is a nice word to describe someone. An **inquisitive** person is engaged in something and showing interest.

■ **Nosy** has a negative connotation. It is not a nice word to describe someone. A **nosy** person is often overly interested and prying into someone else's business.

Notice how replacing one word changes the meaning of the sentence.

- Noah was **nosy**, asking his new neighbors about the delivery truck that was parked outside their house.
- + Noah was **inquisitive**, asking his new neighbors about the delivery truck that was parked outside their house.

Read each sentence, and indicate whether the underlined word has a negative or positive connotation. On each line, write a synonym for the underlined word that changes the sentence's connotation. For additional support, consult a thesaurus or dictionary. **Sample answers**

		Connotation	Replacement
Example:	Searching for something new to try, Hazel <u>scrutinized</u> the taco truck's menu.	negative positive	<u>studied</u>
1	Every time Ezra makes homemade fortune cookies, an <u>odor</u> drifts from the kitchen through the rest of the house.	negative positive	<u>aroma</u>
2	Mrs. Robeson was <u>pushy</u> when she went door-to-door to sell raffle tickets for Saturday's charity event.	negative positive	<u>assertive</u>
3	Roshan had worked hard all week painting the house, so she felt she deserved a <u>relaxing</u> weekend.	negative positive	<u>lazy</u>
4	When Jayla returned from a month in Paris, her brother <u>demande</u> d that she teach him how to count to ten in French.	negative positive	<u>requested</u>
5	Some shoppers are <u>selective</u> when they choose fruits and vegetables, and they avoid the oddly shaped ones.	negative positive	<u>picky</u>
6	Meg's <u>spontaneous</u> personality and sudden interest in surfing led her to quit her job and move to Bali to become a professional surfer.	negative positive	<u>impulsive</u>
7	Grandpa Curtis has a <u>unique</u> sense of style and wears brightly colored socks everywhere he goes.	negative positive	<u>peculiar</u>
8	Shani packed for the river rafting trip by <u>cramming</u> her backpack with insect repellent, sunscreen, flashlights, and a change of clothes.	negative positive	<u>filling</u>
9	With a <u>proud</u> smile on his face, Vincent strolled out of the auditorium with his first-place trophy.	negative positive	<u>conceited</u>
10	Mrs. Yates raised her eyebrows at Theo's <u>excuse</u> that the dog ate his homework.	negative positive	<u>explanation</u>