

Name: _____

Positive and Negative Connotations

Connotation is the feeling or emotion that a word evokes in addition to its literal meaning.

Words can have a positive connotation or a negative connotation.

examples: The scent of the candle (positive connotation)

The odor of the candle (negative connotation)

Denotation is the literal definition of a word.

Complete each sentence by inserting the word that has a positive connotation.

1. The temperature of the water in Miranda's swimming pool was _____.
(freezing/refreshing)
2. Adam wore a _____ expression on his face.
(thoughtful/glum)
3. The spring rain _____ Mrs. Gillig's garden.
(nourished/drenched)



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6. Jessica has a very _____ sense of style.
(unique/odd)
7. I bought the dress because it was _____.
(cheap/inexpensive)
8. The autumn wind _____ through the trees.
(howled/sang)
9. Shang gave a very _____ excuse for not turning in his homework.
(reasonable/pitiful)
10. Stephanie takes a very _____ approach to keeping her room clean.
(easy-going/lazy)

ANSWER KEY

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examples: The scent of the candle (positive connotation)

The odor of the candle (negative connotation)

Denotation is the literal definition of a word.

Complete each sentence by inserting the word that has a positive connotation.

1. The temperature of the water in Miranda's swimming pool was **refreshing**.
(freezing/**refreshing**)

2. Adam wore a **thoughtful** expression on his face.

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