

Name _____

Date _____

Connotations and Denotations

Sometimes writers choose words that mean exactly what they say. These exact meanings are called literal meanings, or **denotations**. Other times, writers choose words that have a specific feeling, or **connotation**, that is associated with the word.

Example: An author might choose to describe someone who saves money as "frugal" or "cheap." Both words have similar denotations, but frugal has a more positive connotation than cheap.

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. Spoke with arrogance _____

Spoke with confidence _____

6. Ratty clothes _____

Casual clothes _____

7. An aggressive stance _____

A hostile stance _____

8. Easygoing attitude _____

Lazy attitude _____

Name _____

Date _____

Connotations and Denotations – Answer Key

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- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1. A strong reek | _____ - | 5. Spoke with arrogance | _____ - |
| A strong aroma | _____ + | Spoke with confidence | _____ + |
| 2. A charismatic leader | _____ + | 6. Ratty clothes | _____ - |
| A pushy leader | _____ - | Casual clothes | _____ + |
| 3. Squandered his time | _____ - | 7. An aggressive stance | _____ - |
| Invested his time | _____ + | A hostile stance | _____ + |
| 4. A bold plan | _____ + | 8. Easygoing attitude | _____ + |
| A reckless plan | _____ - | Lazy attitude | _____ - |