

# Connotation: Shades of Meaning

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Focus on distinguishing connotations of similar words. Strong test answers are precise, purposeful, and supported by the wording of the task.

## PRACTICE

Answer each question. Choose the best answer for multiple-choice items and write complete short responses.

- Which choice BEST demonstrates distinguishing connotations of similar words?
  - The scientist gave a picky explanation of the results.
  - The scientist gave a precise explanation of the results.
  - The scientist gave a fussy explanation of the results.
  - The scientist gave a nosy explanation of the results.
- Which revision best applies distinguishing connotations of similar words? Original: The reporter called the plan cheap.
  - The reporter called the plan economical.
  - The reporter called the plan cheap.
  - The scientist gave a picky explanation of the results.
  - The scientist gave a fussy explanation of the results.
- A student is working on this task: A writer wants a positive word for someone who refuses to give up. Which choice would be MOST effective?
  - The scientist gave a picky explanation of the results.
  - The scientist gave a fussy explanation of the results.
  - Use persistent instead of stubborn when the tone should be approving.
  - The scientist gave a nosy explanation of the results.
- Which explanation best describes why the stronger choice works?
  - It is longer than the other choices, so it must be better.
  - It uses complicated words even if they do not fit.
  - It avoids evidence so the reader can decide alone.
  - It is specific, relevant to the task, and controlled by distinguishing connotations of similar words.



5. Which next step would most strengthen the student's work?
  - A. Add an unrelated personal story.
  - B. Test the emotional shade each word brings.
  - C. Replace precise words with vague ones.
  - D. Remove the clearest evidence.
6. Which mistake should the student avoid?
  - A. Choosing a near-synonym that changes the writer's attitude.
  - B. Checking that each choice fits the audience.
  - C. Using evidence that directly supports the point.
  - D. Rereading the sentence after revising it.
7. Which answer is too vague to earn full credit?
  - A. It works because it applies distinguishing connotations of similar words to the exact task.
  - B. It is stronger because the evidence is relevant and sufficient.
  - C. It is better because it sounds good.
  - D. It improves clarity without changing the meaning.
8. Which habit best supports accuracy on this type of question?
  - A. Choose the first familiar word.
  - B. Ignore the audience and purpose.
  - C. Pick the longest answer every time.
  - D. Read the whole sentence or task before choosing an answer.
9. Explain the difference in connotation between curious and nosy.

---

---

10. Choose the best word for a respectful tone: thin, slim, scrawny, or bony, and explain.

---

---



## Answer Keys

<p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p>	<p>6 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p>
---	--

Explanations	
<b>1. B</b>	The correct choice demonstrates distinguishing connotations of similar words clearly and precisely.
<b>2. A</b>	The revision improves the original while preserving its intended meaning.
<b>3. C</b>	The correct choice fits the task and gives the writer or speaker a concrete move to make.
<b>4. D</b>	Length and difficult vocabulary do not make an answer strong; relevance and control do.
<b>5. B</b>	The best next step improves clarity, support, or control of the skill.
<b>6. A</b>	The correct answer names a common error that weakens this skill.
<b>7. C</b>	A test response must explain the reason, not merely praise the answer.
<b>8. D</b>	Careful reading prevents attractive but wrong choices.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> Strong answers should explicitly use distinguishing connotations of similar words, stay specific, and explain the reason for the choice. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> Strong answers should include a corrected example or explanation that preserves meaning while improving distinguishing connotations of similar words. Use exact wording from the text or task, then explain your reasoning.



## Want Even More Practice? Check Out Our Other Pennsylvania PSSA ELA Test Books!



### Pennsylvania PSSA Grade 8 ELA Preparation Bundle

26 full-length practice tests across four books (5 + 6 + 7 + 8)

*No repeated questions — maximum practice value!*

▼ DOWNLOAD INSTANTLY ▼



SCAN ME

*Point your phone camera at the code · instant access to all four books*

26 Tests!  
4 Books  
One Bundle

**Important:** All our test books contain **unique, completely different tests** from each other! Each book offers fresh practice questions — no repeats!

<h4>5 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 5 complete practice tests with detailed explanations</li> <li>✓ Perfect foundation for PSSA ELA prep</li> <li>✓ Builds confidence and test-taking skills</li> <li>✓ High-quality questions aligned with standards</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Start your practice journey!</p>	<h4>6 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6 complete practice tests with detailed explanations</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from the 5 tests book</li> <li>✓ Perfect for more practice after mastering 5 tests</li> <li>✓ Same high-quality questions aligned with standards</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Take your practice to the next level!</p>	<h4>7 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 7 complete practice tests for deeper preparation</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from 5 and 6 tests books</li> <li>✓ Builds stamina with full-length practice</li> <li>✓ Aligned to Grade 8 PSSA ELA standards</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Maximum preparation power!</p>	<h4>8 Practice Tests</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 8 complete practice tests — our largest book</li> <li>✓ <b>Unique tests</b> — different from 5, 6 and 7 books</li> <li>✓ Great for final review before test day</li> <li>✓ Builds true test stamina and confidence</li> </ul> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Be fully prepared!</p>
--	--	--	---

Get the bundle at [EffortlessMath.com](https://www.EffortlessMath.com) — scan the QR code above to open the product page.