



English I: Reading: Module 1: Lesson 2: Section 4

Denotation and Connotation

Handout 2: Connotation Chart

Instructions: Twenty-four adjectives are listed below. Each adjective is part of a pair in which the two words have similar definitions, i.e., *generous/excessive* or *sweet/cloying*. A dictionary or thesaurus is recommended for this activity. Follow these steps and read the example that follows before you begin:

1. Identify the 12 pairs and then use them to complete the chart below.
2. Type the pairs of words together on the same line, but make sure that each word is in the correct column.

Example:

Frugal and *cheap* are similar, but *frugal* has a more positive connotation because being frugal (not wasting or spending too much money) is considered a good character trait.

“Judy is *frugal* with her paycheck so she can save for college textbooks.”



Cheap has a more negative connotation when used to describe a person because people who are *cheap* watch their money too carefully. When referring to an object or production, *cheap* means that something is not of good quality:


“James didn’t offer to pay for his date’s movie ticket or dinner because he’s *cheap*.”

“The shirt was *cheap* and fell apart after only one wash.”

In this example, you would type *frugal* in to the “positive” column and *cheap* into the “negative” column.

obsessive	reserved	curious	bold	cheap	timid
hyperactive	sentimental	strong-willed	withdrawn	brash	scrawny
frugal	stylish	smug	cowardly	stubborn	nosey
energetic	thin	self-confident	faddish	fervent	mushy

Connotation Chart	Positive or Neutral Connotations 	Negative Connotations 
	frugal	cheap

Mouse over for positive or neutral connotations 

Mouse over for negative connotations 