

Academic Word List- Positive and Negative Connotations

Without looking at the list below, listen to your teacher read out words and raise the Positive or Negative cards that you are given depending on what you hear.

Label the rows of words below P for positive or N for negative.

abandon/ abandonment	ambiguous	arbitrary/ arbitrarily
accessible	accommodating	accurate
achievement/ achievable	adaptable	anticipation
approachable	appropriate	attainment
authoritative	awareness	beneficial/ benefit
biased	bulky	collapse
brevity	clarity	classic
coherent	commitment	compatible/ compatibility
comprehensive	constructive	consistency/ consistent
conformist/ conformity	contradictory	decline
contribute/ contribution	convincing	cooperation
credit/ credited	demonstrable	devote/ devoted/ devotion
discretion	discriminating	diversity/ diversify
distort/ distortion/ distorted	domination	erode/ erosion
dynamic	empirical	enable/ enabling
energetic	ethical	enhance/ enhancement
error/ erroneous	exposure	ideological
evolution/ evolve	expertise/ expertly	facilitate
flexible/ flexibility	focused	guarantee
highlight	implementation	incentive
ignorant/ ignorance	implicate	injure/ injury



innovation/ innovative/ innovator	insight/ insightful	integrity
interactive	involving	justifiable
isolation/ isolationism	melodramatic	manipulation/ manipulative
logical	maximise	mediate/ mediation
methodical	motivated	mutual
minor	passive/ passivity	overestimate/ underestimate
objective/ objectivity	persistent	phenomenal
precision	prime	priority
presumption/ presumptuous	prohibitive	reactionary
professionalism	proportionate	rational
refine/ refined/ refinement	relevant	reliable
reluctant	restrictive	rigid
resourceful	responsive	restore
revolutionise	secure/ security	selected/ selective
straightforward	transformation	ultimate
undergo	under-resourced	variable

Check your answers as a class. Can you find any patterns in parts of words that have positive or negative meanings?

Test each other in pairs.

Try to argue that one of the words above has the opposite aspect too, e.g. that a generally positive word has negative aspects.

What hedging language could you have used in the last stage to make your opinion softer?

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Cards to hold up

Photocopy and cut up one of each card per student.

Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative