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

Connotation/Denotation Practice (Total possible points 15)

The connotative meaning of a word can have tremendous impact on a statement that someone makes. If you choose a word with a negative connotation, the statement you make may have a different impact on someone than you intended. Connotation is the emotion that a word generates in addition to the actual meaning.

**Consider how the author of each sentence below feels.**

Sentence #1: Amanda’s miserly ways will allow her to live comfortably for the rest of her life.

Sentence #2: Amanda’s frugal ways will allow her to live comfortably for the rest of her life.

It is apparent that the author of sentence #1 DOES NOT have a good opinion of Amanda. That is because the word miserly has a negative connotation.

Directions: Read each sentence. Identify the best fitting word for the sentence based on the connotation of each word. *Use the hints to guide you!*

1. Everyone in the office respects Casey because of her kind but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attitude. (HINT: She is respected, so people like her. A positive word would be appropriate here)

A. Assertive B. Bossy C. Demanding

2. "Well," said Curtis with an embarrassed smile, "I'm looking for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ car." (HINT: A positive word would be appropriate here)

A. a cut rate B. a cheaper C. a more economical

3. "Here's a scholarship that you might qualify for," said Mike's advisor. "It's for people who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

(HINT: A positive word would be appropriate here)

A. underprivileged B. Poor C. Poverty-stricken

4. William annoys his friends because he's so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to money. (HINT: They’re annoyed so you need a negative word!)

A. Economical B. Thrifty C. Stingy

5. We're worried about Trish; she's lost so much weight that she looks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (HINT: they’re worried so you need a negative word!)

A. Trim B. Boney C. Slender

6. "I'm afraid," said Luke's guidance counselor carefully, "that you might find advanced calculus a little too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ." (HINT: We don’t want to hurt Luke’s feelings)

A. Challenging B. Confusing C. Difficult

7. "And this particular neighborhood," said the realtor to the young married couple, "will suit families who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." (HINT: It is rude to refer to someone’s wealth)

A. Rich B. Loaded C. Well to do

8. Daniel's doctor said, "I recommend a low-fat, low-carbohydrate diet because you are becoming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." (HINT: The doctor wouldn’t insult a patient)

A. Fat B. Large C. Overweight

9. What makes Jewel so difficult to understand is that she is rather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (HINT: We want the least insulting word)

A. Withdrawn B. Shy C. Closeted

10. We were all so sorry to hear that you had gotten \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the plant. (HINT: Be kind. It’s hard to lose your job)

A. Canned B. Let go C. Fired

11. We like Heath as the shift supervisor because he has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attitude. (HINT: We want the most complimenting word here)

A. Laid back B. Careless C. Lackadaisical

12. "We understand," said the customer service representative, "that our new policy might be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." (HINT: The customer service representative doesn’t want to make themselves look bad so they choose the most positive word)

A. Inconvenient B. A pain in the neck C. Infuriating

Pick 3 words from the questions above that were unfamiliar to you. Write the DENOTATIVE definition of those words:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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