

## Connotation Ladder Answer Key

### Sample Connotation Scales (from most negative → most positive):

1. Pigheaded → Stubborn → Determined

- “Pigheaded” = very negative (close-minded), “stubborn” = neutral/mildly negative, “determined” = positive (strong-willed).

2. Cheap → Inexpensive → Affordable

- “Cheap” = negative (low quality), “inexpensive” = neutral (factual), “affordable” = positive (accessible, good value).

3. Strange → Unique → Extraordinary

- “Strange” = negative (odd, unsettling), “unique” = neutral/positive (different, special), “extraordinary” = strongly positive (amazing).

4. Immature → Childish → Childlike

- “Immature” = negative (not developed), “childish” = mildly negative (silly, lacking maturity), “childlike” = positive (innocent, full of wonder).

5. Arrogant → Confident → Self-assured

- “Arrogant” = negative (self-important), “confident” = positive (capable), “self-assured” = strongly positive (calm, secure).

### Teacher Notes / Guide:

- Some word orders may vary slightly depending on interpretation, but students must **justify placement** with reasoning about **tone**.
- Extension idea: Have students **add a new synonym** to each scale to expand it further.