

Tone Shift Synonyms Answer Key

Sample Responses (students' answers may vary, but reasoning must be accurate):

1. *Skinny* → *Slim*: "Slim" gives a more positive impression of health/attractiveness.
Skinny → *Scrawny*: "Scrawny" makes the kitten sound weak or unhealthy.
2. *Confident* → *Self-assured*: Positive tone, suggests capable and respectful.
Confident → *Arrogant*: Negative tone, suggests conceited or boastful.
3. *Cheap* → *Affordable*: Positive/neutral tone, suggests good value.
Cheap → *Stingy*: Negative tone, suggests meanness or unwillingness to spend.
4. *Childlike* → *Innocent*: Positive tone, suggests wonder or purity.
Childlike → *Childish*: Negative tone, suggests immaturity or silliness.
5. *Home* → *Dwelling*: Neutral tone, just a factual description.
Home → *Residence*: Neutral/formal tone, lacks warmth or emotional connection.

Teacher Notes / Guide:

- The goal is to **see the impact of word swaps**, not just identify synonyms.
- Encourage students to use **context clues** to decide if a word feels positive, negative, or neutral.
- Accept alternative synonyms if students can clearly explain the connotation shift.