

Connotation in Context Answer Key

1. **c) Slender** - "Slim" has a positive connotation of attractiveness; "skinny"/"scrawny"/"gaunt" sound unhealthy or unattractive.
2. **b) Bold** - "Confident" is positive; "arrogant," "conceited," and "pompous" have negative tones.
3. **a) Thrifty** - "Economical" suggests wise money management; "cheap," "stingy," and "miserly" are negative.
4. **c) Innocent** - "Childlike" is positive; "childish," "immature," and "silly" suggest weakness or immaturity.
5. **d) House** - Neutral denotation of dwelling, but "home" carries warmth; "shack," "dwelling," and "apartment" lack the same emotional tone.
6. **b) Fearless** - "Courageous" means bravery; "reckless" and "foolhardy" are negative, "daring" can imply risk without wisdom.
7. **a) Inquisitive** - "Curious" in a positive sense; "nosy," "intrusive," "meddling" are negative.
8. **d) Special** - "Unique" highlights value; "odd," "weird," and "strange" lean negative.

Teacher Notes / Guide:

- This worksheet emphasizes the importance of **precision in word choice**.
- Point out that synonyms are rarely *perfect*. They almost always carry **different connotations** even if the denotation overlaps.