

## Meaning Matters Answer Key

1. **assertive**. It suggests confidence and control; aggressive implies hostility.
2. **economical**. It suggests efficiency; cheap suggests low quality or stinginess.
3. **confident**. It implies assurance without excess; arrogant implies superiority.
4. **persistent**. It implies determination; stubborn implies unreasonable resistance.
5. **selective**. It suggests careful choice; exclusive suggests unfair limitation.

### Teacher's Guide

- Skill focus: Distinguishing **denotation** from **connotation** and evaluating reader impact.
- Time: 10 to 15 minutes; fits one page.
- What to assess:
  - Clear understanding of emotional and tonal differences.
  - Ability to connect word choice to audience perception.
- Differentiation:
  - Support: Allow students to label each word as positive, neutral, or negative before answering.
  - Challenge: Require students to justify which word would be most appropriate for an academic essay and why.
- Engagement:
  - Mini debate: Students defend opposite word choices and argue which best fits a formal context.
- Extension:
  - Writing transfer: Students revise one sentence from their own writing by swapping a neutral word for one with stronger connotation, then explain the effect.