ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Connotation Examples Quiz: Positive and Negative Words

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Explanations

1. Which word would you use to praise someone who is careful with money?
✔ **A) thrifty**
Thrifty is positive: you save cleverly and waste nothing. Stingy, mean and tight are criticism.

2. My uncle never pays for a round of drinks and always "forgets" his wallet. He's so ___.
✔ **B) stingy**
Stingy means you won't spend or share, even when you should.

3. Our science teacher loves ___ students who ask questions about everything.
✔ **C) inquisitive**
Inquisitive is praise: you ask questions because you want to learn.

4. Celebrities build high walls to keep out ___ eyes.
✔ **D) prying**
Prying eyes try to see private things that are not their business.

5. Which sentence is a compliment for a 65-year-old?
✔ **A) She has a youthful face.**
Youthful means fresh and full of energy, like a young person. It is praise.

6. The old painter kept a ___ sense of wonder, but his ___ arguments with critics embarrassed his family.
✔ **B) childlike … childish**
Childlike is a child's good side, like wonder; childish is a child's bad side, like silly fights.

7. The ___ of fresh bread drifted from the bakery.
✔ **C) aroma**
An aroma is a rich, pleasant smell of food or drink.

8. This shampoo has a light ___ of lemon and mint.
✔ **D) fragrance**
A fragrance is a sweet, light smell, as of flowers or perfume.

9. Which word is the strongest and most disgusting smell?
✔ **A) stench**
A stench makes you hold your nose. Odour is usually unpleasant, but weaker and more formal.

10. A sign in the gym changing room: "Please shower to avoid body ___."
✔ **B) odour**
Body odour is the fixed, polite phrase for the smell of sweat.

11. The university is ___ for its medical school, and students come from all over the world to study there.
✔ **C) renowned**
Renowned for means famous and admired for something good.

12. The interviewer liked her: she was calm, ___ and never boastful.
✔ **D) self-assured**
Self-assured means sure of your ability without showing off. Cocky is the annoying version.

13. After one goal, the young striker got ___ and started showing off to the crowd.
✔ **A) cocky**
Cocky means too sure of yourself, in an annoying way.

14. Admiring: "a ___ investor". Critical: "a ___ liar".
✔ **B) shrewd … cunning**
Shrewd is praise for good judgement; cunning is clever in a tricky, dishonest way.

15. In a British newspaper: "The council's new recycling ___ starts today." On the next page: "An angry ___ attacked the police van."
✔ **C) scheme … mob**
In British English, a scheme is an official plan. A mob is an angry crowd that may turn violent.

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