

# Association Of English Words With Positive And Negative Sentiment

Instructions ^

## I. General instructions

- Attempt HITs only if you are a native speaker of English.
- Your responses are confidential. Any publications based on these responses will not include your specific responses, but rather aggregate information from many individuals. We will not ask any information that can be used to identify who you are.

## II. Task-specific instructions

Words are associated with sentiment (positive or negative) to different degrees. For example, the word *party* is associated with more positive sentiment than the word *carpet*. Similarly, the word *massacre* is associated with more negative sentiment than the word *tired*.

In each HIT, you will be given four focus terms (single words or two-word expressions). You will be asked two questions:

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the most amount of positive sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- **the most positive term**.

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the most amount of negative sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- **the most negative term**.

The answers do not have to be words **expressing** a sentiment such as *like* or *hate*. The answer is the word that is **associated** with the most amount of positive sentiment (for Q1) and **associated** with the most amount of negative sentiment (for Q2). Words associated with positive sentiment tend to occur more commonly in positive statements than in negative statements. Words associated with negative sentiment tend to occur more commonly in negative statements than in positive statements.

Example HIT

Focus words: tree ice cream rainy #rejection

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the most amount of positive sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term?

- tree
- ice cream

- rainy
- #rejection

The correct answer is ice cream.

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the most amount of negative sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.

- tree
- ice cream
- rainy
- #rejection

The correct answer is #rejection.

Some of the words may be words that are commonly used in tweets. So you may see abbreviations such as *smh* (shake my head), creatively spelled words such as *funnn* (instead of fun), and hashtags such as *#rejection* and *#loveumom*. When considering hashtagged words, think of tweets that have these hashtags -- consider how positive or negative these tweets tend to be.

### Important Notes:

- Provide an answer that most speakers of English will agree with. For example, even if there is a personal reason for a particular option to be very positive for you, provide the word that most people will consider most positive (for Q1) and the word that most people will consider most negative (for Q2).
- A HIT may have all negative words. The response to Q1 should be the word that is least negative. Similarly, if the HIT has only positive words, then the response to Q2 should be the word that is least positive.
- A focus word may have more than one meaning. When responding to questions, consider **the most common meaning** of the focus word.
- Since the words for this task were generated from tweets, some of the words may be offensive to some people. Please feel free to skip a HIT if you are uncomfortable with the terms in it.
- If you do not know the meaning of a word, please either skip the HIT or look up the meaning in your favorite dictionary. Below are links to references that may be of help:
  - <http://www.merriam-webster.com>
  - <http://www.google.com>
  - <http://www.internetslang.com>
  - <http://www.urbandictionary.com>