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.

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).
- The focus terms may have all negative words. The response to Q1 should be the word that is least negative. Similarly, if all the terms are 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.
- The answer to Q2 is always different from the answer to Q1. Do not pick the same answer for both Q1 and Q2.
- 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

Focus words:
1. would better   2. patronage   3. would be fun   4. shock

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

- would better
- patronage
- would be fun

○ shock

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ would better
○ patronage
○ would be fun
○ shock

Focus words:
1. may need   2. block   3. could be happy   4. less useful

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of POSITIVE sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term.
○ may need
○ block
○ could be happy
○ less useful

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ may need
○ block
○ could be happy
○ less useful

Focus words:
1. worse   2. was not sufficient   3. more afraid   4. banish

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of POSITIVE sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term.
○ worse
○ was not sufficient
○ more afraid
○ banish

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ worse
○ was not sufficient
○ more afraid
○ banish

Focus words:
1. may be real   2. was no good   3. may provide   4. too afraid

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of POSITIVE sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term.
○ may be real

○ was no good
○ may provide
○ too afraid

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ may be real
○ was no good
○ may provide
○ too afraid

Focus words:
1. not responsible   2. was not serious   3. not lead   4. spoil

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of POSITIVE sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term.
○ not responsible
○ was not serious
○ not lead
○ spoil

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ not responsible
○ was not serious
○ not lead
○ spoil

Focus words:
1. was too good   2. could fail   3. positive   4. much love

Q1. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of POSITIVE sentiment (or, least amount of negative sentiment) -- the most positive term.
○ was too good
○ could fail
○ positive
○ much love

Q2. Identify the word that is associated with the MOST amount of NEGATIVE sentiment (or, least amount of positive sentiment) -- the most negative term.
○ was too good
○ could fail
○ positive
○ much love

Focus words:
1. not allow   2. no easy   3. should be independent   4. would be very interested

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

○ not allow
○ no easy
○ should be independent
○ would be very interested

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

○ not allow
○ no easy
○ should be independent
○ would be very interested

Focus words:
1. too important   2. may understand   3. sufficient   4. might hurt

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

○ too important
○ may understand
○ sufficient
○ might hurt

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

○ too important
○ may understand
○ sufficient
○ might hurt

Focus words:
1. not poor   2. bastard   3. fair   4. can be fun

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

○ not poor
○ bastard
○ fair
○ can be fun

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

○ not poor
○ bastard
○ fair
○ can be fun