



Word Choice Detective: Two Reviews

Mission: Two customers reviewed the same pizza restaurant on the same night, but you'd never know it! Highlight the loaded words in each review and explain how word choice creates each writer's tone.

Big question: How does word choice reveal an author's tone and point of view?

★ Warm-up: Same fact, different feel

Describe the same thing two ways.

A loud party ✓ **Lively vs. chaotic.**

An old car ✓ **Classic vs. rusty.**

Key vocabulary

Loaded words	Words with strong positive or negative connotations.
Point of view	The writer's perspective or opinion.
Bias	A one-sided attitude.
Tone	The writer's attitude toward the subject.

1 Box 1

Highlight loaded words

In the simulator: Highlight 3 positive sentences in Review 1 (■) and 3 negative sentences in Review 2 (■).

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Same fact

Both reviewers waited 20 minutes. How does word choice change that fact?

☐ "Worth it" makes the wait sound positive; "endless" makes it sound terrible ☐ One waited longer

☐ The fact is different in each

✓ **"Worth it" makes the wait sound positive; "endless" makes it sound terrible**

3 Box 3

Analyze the tone

Compare the tone of the two reviews.

Review 1 tone

Look for: Names the tone; an exact quote from the text; at least 10 words

Review 2 tone

Look for: Names the tone; an exact quote from the text; at least 10 words

So what?

Look for: Draws a conclusion; at least 12 words

4 Box 4

Legend: neutral review Legend only

Write a NEUTRAL, objective review of Pizza Palace using facts only.

Look for: Uses facts; at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How does word choice reveal an author's tone and point of view?

Look for: Writers reveal their attitude through connotation. The same 20-minute wait is "absolutely worth it" in one review and "20 endless minutes" in the other. Paying attention to loaded words helps readers notice point of view and bias.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1DH-E
 Investigator	QBO-I
 Legend	3SZ-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "Synonyms can always be swapped." Connotation changes the meaning and tone.
- "Tone and mood are the same." Tone is the author's attitude; mood is how the reader feels.
- "Figurative language is only in poems." It appears in all kinds of writing, even news.