Text Completion: word charge and connotation

Every Text Completion clue carries a charge — a positive, negative, or neutral. . .

Lesson grev.tc.C5

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The idea

Every Text Completion clue carries a charge — a positive, negative, or neutral pull — and the fastest way to narrow five options is to fix that charge before you weigh precise meanings. Read the sentence for the word or phrase that colors the blank (a word of praise, of blame, of relief, of alarm) and decide whether the blank must be positive or negative to keep the sentence consistent.

What word or phrase colors the blank, and does the sentence's logic make the blank positive, negative, or neutral?

Fix the required charge first. Strike every option whose connotation carries the wrong charge, then choose among survivors by specific meaning.

Watch every step

Signal: 'won every reader's affection' colors the blank favorably, so the blank must be positive.

Reviewers agreed that the memoir's ___ tone, warm without ever turning sentimental, won every reader's affection.

- **A.** genial
- **B.** confessional ✗ *topic-attractive*
- **C.** acerbic ✗ *wrong-charge*
- **D.** clinical ✗ *connotation-blind*
- **E.** rhapsodic ✗ *intensity-mismatch*

Why **A** — "genial." Select the option whose connotation matches the required charge and whose meaning fits the clue.

Now a harder one

Signal: 'warmth' and 'strangers left feeling like old friends' color the blank favorably, so it must be positive.

The innkeeper greeted every weary traveler with such ___ warmth that perfect strangers left feeling like old friends.

A. effusive ✗ *intensity-mismatch*

B. surly ✗ *wrong-charge*

C. unctuous ✗ *connotation-blind*

D. commercial ✗ *topic-attractive*

E. affable

Why E — "affable." Select the option whose connotation matches the required charge and whose meaning fits the clue.

The method, in one line

Text Completion: word charge and connotation

Fix the required charge first. Strike every option whose connotation carries the wrong charge, then choose among survivors by specific meaning.

Is the charge right, not merely the topic? Is the intensity matched to the clue rather than needlessly extreme or too faint?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ wrong-charge
Selects a word whose connotation carries the opposite charge from what the coloring clue requires — a negative word where the clue is favorable, or vice versa.

⚠ connotation-blind
Judges a word by its bare dictionary sense and misses that its connotation is loaded, so a word that seems neutral actually carries a charge the sentence forbids.

Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.

Try it, then watch the walk-through

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