

TONE

Language to describe tone

Positive tone/attitude: *lighthearted, hopeful, exuberant, enthusiastic, complimentary, confident, cheery, optimistic, loving, passionate, amused, elated, sympathetic, compassionate, proud*

Negative tone/attitude: *angry, disgusted, outraged, accusing, condemnatory, furious, wrathful, inflammatory, irritated, indignant, threatening*

Irony/Sarcasm: *scornful, disdainful, contemptuous, sarcastic, cynical, critical, facetious, patronizing, satiric, condescending, sardonic, mock-heroic, bantering, irreverent, mock-serious, taunting, insolent, pompous, ironic, flippant, grotesque*

Sorrow/Fear/Worry: *somber, elegiac, melancholic, sad, disturbed, mournful, solemn, serious, apprehensive, concerned, hopeless, staid, resigned*

Neutral tone/attitude words: *formal, objective, incredulous, nostalgic, ceremonial, candid, shocked, reminiscent, restrained, clinical, baffled, sentimental, detached, objective, disbelieving, questioning, urgent, instructive, matter-of-fact, admonitory, learned, factual, didactic, informative, authoritative*

Developing a Tone Vocabulary

Another list of **tone** words:

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| angry | sad | sentimental | satiric | pedantic | colloquial |
| sharp | cold | fanciful | whimsical | indignant | compassionate |
| upset | urgent | complimentary | dramatic | bantering | impartial |
| silly | joking | condescending | learned | flippant | insipid |
| boring | poignant | sympathetic | informative | condescending | pretentious |
| afraid | detached | contemptuous | somber | patronizing | vibrant |
| happy | confused | apologetic | urgent | facetious | irreverent |
| hollow | childish | humorous | confident | clinical | sentimental |
| joyful | peaceful | horrific | mock-heroic | mock-serious | moralistic |
| allusive | mocking | sarcastic | objective | inflammatory | complimentary |
| sweet | objective | nostalgic | diffident | benevolent | contemptuous |
| vexed | vibrant | zealous | ironic | burlesque | sympathetic |
| tired | frivolous | irreverent | petty | detached | taunting |
| bitter | audacious | benevolent | factual | cynical | angry |
| dreamy | shocking | seductive | restrained | incisive | turgid |
| restrained | somber | candid | elegiac | allusive | sardonic |
| proud | giddy | pitiful | disdainful | scornful | contentious |
| dramatic | provocative | didactic | lugubrious | effusive | insolent |
| | | | candid | fanciful | concerned |

Attitude Words

1. accusatory: charging of wrongdoing
2. apathetic: indifferent due to lack of energy or concern
3. awe: solemn wonder
4. bitter: exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or grief
5. cynical: questions the basic sincerity and goodness of people
6. condescension: a feeling of superiority
7. callous: unfeeling, insensitive to feelings
8. contemplative: studying, thinking, reflecting on the issue
9. critical: finding fault
10. choleric: hot-tempered, easily angered
11. contemptuous: showing or feeling that something is worthless; lacking respect
12. caustic: intense use of sarcasm; stinging, biting
13. conventional: lacking spontaneity, originality and individuality
14. disdainful: scornful
15. didactic: author attempts to educate or instruct the reader
16. derisive: ridiculing, mocking
17. earnest: intense, a sincere state of mind
18. erudite: learned, polished, scholarly
19. fanciful: using the imagination
20. forthright: directly frank without hesitation
21. gloomy: darkness, sadness, rejection
22. haughty: proud and vain to the point of arrogance
23. indignant: marked by anger aroused by injustice
24. intimate: very familiar
25. judgmental: authoritative and often critical
26. jovial: happy
27. lyrical: expressing inner feelings, emotional, full of images, songlike
28. matter-of-fact: accepting of conditions, not fanciful or emotional
29. mocking: treating with contempt or ridicule
30. morose: gloomy, sullen, surly, despondent
31. malicious: purposely hurtful
32. objective: unbiased view
33. optimistic: hopeful, cheerful
34. obsequious: polite and obedient only for hope of gain or favor
35. patronizing: air of condescension
36. pessimistic: seeing the worst side of things
37. quizzical: odd, eccentric, amusing
38. ribald: offensive in speech, gesture
39. reverent: treating a subject with honor, respect
40. ridiculing: slightly contemptuous banter
41. reflective: illustrating innermost thoughts
42. sarcastic: sneering, caustic
43. sardonic: scornfully and bitterly sarcastic
44. sincere: without deceit or pretense, genuine
45. solemn: deeply earnest, grave
46. sanguine: optimistic, cheerful
47. whimsical: odd, queer, fantastic