Tone Words

Tone is defined as the writer's or speaker's attitude toward the subject and the audience. Understanding tone in writing can be challenging because the reader doesn't have voice inflection to reveal or express the meaning. Thus, an appreciation of word choice, details, imagery, and language all contribute to the understanding of tone.

# ANGRY

Showing anger; wild and stormy

# APOLOGETIC

Showing or expressing regret

# BENEVOLENT

Inclined to do good; charitable

# BITTER

Resulting from severe grief or anguish; marked by resentment or cynicism

# CANDID

Honest, frank, free from prejudice

# CLINICAL

Purely scientific, like a text-book

# CONDESCENDING

To descend to the level of the person you are dealing with; patronizing

# CONFIDENT

Assured or certain

# CONFUSED

Bewildered or perplexed

# CYNICAL

Sarcastic or sneering; expecting the worst

# DETACHED

Separate or not involved in emotions

# DREAMY

Having a soft, soothing quality

# FLIPPANT

Talkative, glib, and saucy

# FRIVOLOUS

Not properly serious or sensible, not taking it seriously

# GIDDY

Dizzy or unsteady; silly, too happy

# IMPARTIAL

Unbiased; not favoring one side

# INDIGNANT

Feeling or expressing anger or scorn; anger due to injustice

**IRREVERENT**

Showing disrespect

**JOYFUL**

Feeling or expressing happiness

**MOCK-HEROIC**

Pretend heroism; making fun of heroism

**NOSTALGIC**

Homesick or longing for something long ago, longing for the past

**PATRONIZING**

To be kind or helpful in a snotty way, as if you are superior or better

**SAD**

Momentary unhappiness ranging to intense grief

**SARCASTIC**

Characterized by taunting, subtle mockery

**SCORNFUL**

Filled with contempt or hate

**SOMBER**

Dark, gloomy, melancholy, dull

**SWEET**

Characterized by kindness and gentleness; delightful

**SYMPATHETIC**

Showing deep pity or compassion

**TIRED**

Fatigued, worn out; weary, giving up

**VIBRANT**

Lively, energetic, colorful

**WHIMSICAL**

Fanciful; oddly out of the ordinary

**ZEALOUS**

Filled with interest and enthusiasm