

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