

## TONE: Some words to describe the tone of a work or passage

|               |               |                  |              |                 |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| accusing      | derisive      | gloomy           | mock-serious | scornful        |
| admonitory    | derogatory    | grave            | moralistic   | selfish         |
| affectionate  | desolate      | greedy           | mournful     | sentimental     |
| allusive      | despairing    | grim             | mysterious   | serene          |
| ambivalent    | desperate     | gushy            | nervous      | serious         |
| amused        | detached      | happy            | nostalgic    | shocked         |
| angry         | diabolic      | haughty          | objective    | silly           |
| annoyed       | didactic      | hilarious        | ominous      | simpering       |
| anxious       | diffident     | holier-than-thou | optimistic   | sinister        |
| apprehensive  | disappointed  | hopeful          | outraged     | skeptical       |
| audacious     | disbelieving  | hopeless         | outspoken    | sober           |
| authoritative | disdainful    | horrific         | paranoid     | solemn          |
| baffled       | disgusted     | humorous         | passionate   | somber          |
| bantering     | disinterested | impartial        | pathetic     | staid           |
| benevolent    | dispassionate | impatient        | patronizing  | stirring        |
| bewildered    | distressed    | incisive         | pedantic     | stoic           |
| bitter        | disturbed     | incredulous      | pensive      | straightforward |
| blunt         | doubtful      | indignant        | persuasive   | strident        |
| bossy         | dramatic      | inflammatory     | pessimistic  | suspenseful     |
| brusque       | ebullient     | informative      | petty        | suspicious      |
| burlesque     | effusive      | insipid          | pithy        | sympathetic     |
| candid        | elated        | insolent         | playful      | taunting        |
| casual        | elegiac       | instructive      | pompous      | tender          |
| ceremonial    | empathetic    | intimate         | pretentious  | tense           |
| cheerful      | encouraging   | introspective    | proud        | terse           |
| cheery        | enraged       | ironic           | provocative  | thoughtful      |
| choleric      | enthusiastic  | irreverent       | psychotic    | threatening     |
| clinical      | euphoric      | irritated        | questioning  | timorous        |
| cold          | excited       | jocund           | reflective   | turgid          |
| colloquial    | expectant     | joyful           | regretful    | uncaring        |
| compassionate | exuberant     | laidback         | relaxed      | unconcerned     |
| complimentary | facetious     | learned          | reminiscent  | uneasy          |
| conceited     | factual       | lethargic        | remorseful   | unhappy         |
| concerned     | fanciful      | lighthearted     | resigned     | unsympathetic   |
| conciliatory  | fatalistic    | loving           | restrained   | urgent          |
| condemnatory  | fearful       | lugubrious       | reticent     | vibrant         |
| condescending | fervent       | matter-of-fact   | reverent     | vitriolic       |
| confident     | flippant      | measured         | romantic     | whimsical       |
| confused      | foreboding    | meditative       | rousing      | wistful         |
| contemptuous  | formal        | melancholic      | sad          | worried         |
| contentious   | frantic       | melancholy       | sanguine     | wrathful        |
| critical      | frightened    | mirthful         | sarcastic    | wry             |
| cynical       | frustrated    | miserable        | sardonic     | zealous         |
| delightful    | furious       | mock-heroic      | satiric      |                 |
| depressed     | gleeful       | mocking          | scared       |                 |