

## A list of words that Describe Tone

Col.1	Col. 2	Col. 3
straightforward	forgive	ambivalent (uncertain about a choice)
matter-of-fact	excited	optimistic (looking on the bright side)
objective	cheerful	pessimistic (looking on the gloomy side)
serious	joyous	desperate (having a great desire for something)
formal	light-hearted	grim (harsh, dealing w/ unpleasant subjects)
informal	amused	
solemn	humorous	
bitter	comic	
sorrowful	playful	
depressed	outspoken (spoken badly and freely)	
angry	sarcastic (making sharp or wounding remarks; ironic)	
critical	impassioned (filled w/ passion and strong feeling)	
cruel	tolerant (respecting of other views and behavior)	
hesitant	remorseful (filled w/ guilt over a wrong one has done)	
fearful	outraged (very angered)	
anxious	mocking (ridiculing; sneering; holding up for scorn)	
alarmed	scornful (look down on something or someone)	
tragic	ironic (meaning the opposite of what is expressed)	
self-pitying	arrogant (conceited)	
disbelieving	irrelevant (lacking respect)	
surprised	cynical (believing the worst in others)	
regretful	indignant (angry about something unfair or mean)	
sympathetic	revengeful (wanting to hurt someone in return for an injury)	
compassionate	vindictive (very revengeful)	
loving	malicious (spiteful; intentionally harmful)	
sentimental	contemptuous (expressing great scorn and disgust)	

## ATTITUDE WORDS

1. accusatory – charging of wrong doing
2. apathetic – indifferent due to each of energy or concern
3. awe – solemn wonder
4. bitter – exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or crisis
5. cynical – questions the basic sincerity and goodness of people
6. condescension; condescending – a feeling of superiority
7. callous – unfeeling, insensitive to feelings
8. contemplative – studying, thinking, reflecting on an 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 or 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 & sincere state of mind
18. erudite – learned, polished
19. fanciful – using the imagination
20. forthright – directly frank without hesitation
21. gloomy – darkness, sadness, rejection
22. haughty – proud and vain to point of arrogance
23. indignant – marked by anger aroused by injustice
24. intimate – very familiar
25. judgmental – authoritative and often critical opinion
26. jovial – happy
27. lyrical – expressing a poet's inner feelings; emotional; full of images; song-like
28. matter-of-fact – accepting of conditions; not fanciful or emotional
29. mocking – treating with contempt or ridicule
30. morose – gloomy, sulk, surly, despondent
31. malicious – purposely hurtful
32. objective – an unbiased view
33. optimistic – hopeful; cheerful
34. obsequious – polite and obediently 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
42. sarcastic – sneering, caustic
43. sardonic – scornfully and bitterly sarcastic
44. sincere – without deceit or pretense; genuine
45. solemn – deeply earnest, grave
46. sanguineous – optimistic, cheerful
47. whimsical – odd, queer, fantastic

## FEELING WORDS

### HAPPY

festive  
contented  
relaxed  
calm  
complacent  
satisfied  
serene  
comfortable

### SAD

sorrowful  
unhappy  
depressed  
melancholy  
gloomy  
somber  
dismal  
heavy-hearted

### ANGRY

resentful  
irritated  
enraged  
furious  
annoyed  
inflamed  
provoked  
infuriated

### DOUBTFUL

unbelieving  
skeptical  
distrustful  
suspicious  
dubious  
uncertain  
questioning  
evasive

### MISCELLANEOUS

humble  
torn  
mixed-up  
envious  
jealous  
preoccupied  
cruel  
distant

peaceful  
joyous  
ecstatic  
enthusiastic  
inspired  
glad  
pleased  
grateful  
cheerful  
excited  
lighthearted  
cheery  
buoyant  
carefree  
surprised  
optimistic  
spirited  
vivacious  
brisk  
sparkling  
merry  
generous  
hilarious  
exhilarated  
jolly  
playful  
elated  
jubilant  
thrilled  
restful

#### EAGER

keen  
earnest  
intent  
zealous  
ardent  
avid  
anxious  
enthusiastic  
desirous  
excited  
proud

quiet  
mournful  
dreadful  
dreary  
flat  
blah  
dull  
in the dumps  
sullen  
moody  
out of sorts  
sulky  
low  
discontented  
discouraged  
disappointed  
concerned  
sympathetic  
compassionate  
choked up  
embarrassed  
shameful  
ashamed  
useless  
worthless  
ill at ease

#### HURT

injured  
isolated  
offended  
distressed  
pained  
suffering  
afflicted  
worried  
aching  
crushed  
heartbroken  
despair  
tortured  
lonely  
pathetic  
cold  
upset

offended  
sullen  
indignant  
irate  
wrathful  
cross  
sulky  
bitter  
frustrated  
grumpy  
boiling  
bitter  
stubborn  
belligerent  
confused  
awkward  
bewildered

#### FEARLESS

encouraged  
courageous  
confident  
secure  
independent  
reassured  
bold  
daring  
heroic  
hardy  
determined  
loyal  
proud  
impulsive

#### INTERESTED

concerned  
fascinated  
engrossed  
intrigued  
absorbed  
excited  
curious  
inquisitive  
inquiring  
creative  
sincere

wavering  
hesitant  
perplexed  
indecisive  
hopeless  
powerful  
powerless  
helpless  
defeated  
pessimistic

#### PHYSICAL

taut  
uptight  
immobilized  
paralyzed  
tense  
stretched  
hollow  
empty  
strong  
weak  
sweaty  
breathless  
nauseated  
sluggish  
weary  
repulsed  
tired  
alive  
feisty

#### AFFECTIONATE

close  
loving  
sexy  
tender  
seductive  
passionate  
aggressive  
appealing  
warm

bored  
hypocritical  
phony  
two-faced  
cooperative

#### AFRAID

fearful  
frightened  
timid  
wishy-washy  
shaky  
apprehensive  
fidgety  
terrified  
panicky  
tragic  
hysterical  
alarmed  
cautious  
shocked  
horrified  
insecure  
impatient  
nervous  
dependent  
anxious  
pressured  
worried  
doubtful  
suspicious  
hesitant  
awed  
dismayed  
scared  
cowardly  
threatened  
appalled  
petrified  
gutless