

# Tone = Author's attitude

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\*Use this list to help you identify “tone of voice” of the speaker in a text but also the **overall tone** of the piece (the author’s attitude) which may be very different than that of the characters in the text.

\*Always look for shifts or changes in tone!

<p><b>Angry</b> Disgusted Enraged Furious Fuming Incensed Outraged Unforgiving Wrathful</p>	<p><b>Irritated, Offended</b> Annoyed Disgruntled Irate</p> <p><b>Rebellious</b> Defiant Mutinous Subversive</p>	<p><b>Sarcastic</b> Facetious Flippant Ironic Satiric</p>	<p><b>Stubborn</b> Dogmatic Uncompromising Unsatisfied Unyielding Zealous</p>	<p><b>Illogical, Childish</b>  Petty Petulant Sullen Sulking Surly</p>	<p><b>Impatient</b> Curt</p> <p><b>Impulsive</b> Foolish Impetuous Reckless</p>	<p><b>Boastful, Over-confident</b> Bragging Pompous Smug</p>
<p><b>Hurtful, Cruel, Hateful</b>  Belittling Demeaning Derogatory Inflammatory Insulting Malicious Mocking Ridiculing Taunting</p>	<p><b>Intimidating, Manipulative, Presumptuous</b> Authoritative Bossy Commanding Controlling Demanding Domineering Forceful Intrusive Overbearing Pushy</p>	<p><b>Confrontational</b>  Abrasive Aggressive Antagonistic Argumentative Belligerent Contentious Divisive Hostile Inflammatory Threatening Violent</p>	<p><b>Jealous / Envious</b>  <b>Resentful, Bitter</b> Begrudging Cynical Indignant Jaded</p> <p><b>Vindictive</b> Spiteful Vengeful</p>	<p><b>Condescending Disrespectful</b> Arrogant Contemptuous Derisive Disdainful Haughty Insolent Irreverent Patronizing Scornful Snobbish</p>	<p><b>Critical, Disapproving</b> Accusatory Admonishing Biting Blunt Harsh Judgmental Reproachful Scathing Scolding Severe Sharp</p>	<p><b>Conceited</b> Egotistical Narcissistic Self-centered Vain</p> <p><b>Greedy</b> Selfish</p>
<p><b>Shocked</b>  Appalled Dismayed Horrified Incredulous Stunned</p>	<p><b>Add Your Own</b></p>	<p><b>Sinister, Evil</b> Cryptic Dark Diabolical Foreboding Morbid Ominous Psychotic Sadistic</p>	<p><b>Secretive, Calculated</b> Allusive Ambiguous Concealed Conniving Coy Deceptive Evasive Mysterious Sly</p>	<p><b>Disappointed, Frustrated</b> Exasperated Vexed</p>	<p><b>Yearning</b> Longing Nostalgic Sentimental Wistful</p>	<p><b>Confused, Puzzled</b>  Baffled Bemused Bewildered Conflicted Surprised</p>
<p><b>Cold, Icy, Insincere, Insensitive</b>  Artificial Callous Careless Clinical Dismissive Impersonal Unsympathetic</p>	<p><b>Passive, Unconcerned</b> Aloof Apathetic Bored Complacent Detached Indifferent Robotic Unaffected Uncaring Uninterested</p> <p><b>Obedient</b> Compliant Submissive</p>	<p><b>Sad, Upset,</b> Bittersweet Dejected Depressed Desolate Despairing Gloomy Haunted Heartbroken Melancholy Mournful Miserable Subdued Wounded</p>	<p><b>Tired, Hopeless, Numb</b>  Crushed Defeated Despondent Discouraged Disheartened Emotionless Exhausted Fatalistic Hollow Lethargic Resigned Weary</p>	<p><b>Fearful</b>  Apprehensive Desperate Frantic Frightened Hysterical Paranoid</p>	<p><b>Anxious, Concerned Worried</b>  Alarmed Agitated Disturbed Distraught Distressed Insecure Jittery Nervous Rattled Tense Troubled Uneasy</p>	<p><b>Doubtful, Reluctant, Suspicious</b> Ambivalent Cautious Disbelieving Distrustful Guarded Hesitant Pessimistic Skeptical Questioning Uncertain Unsure Wary</p>

<b>Add Your Own</b>	<b>Academic, Professional</b>  Analytical Businesslike Informative Intellectual Persuasive Philosophical Scientific Scholarly Technical	<b>Guilty</b> Abashed Apologetic Ashamed Contrite Embarrassed Humiliated Poignant Regretful Remorseful  <b>Unapologetic</b> Unabashed Bold	<b>Introspective</b>  Contemplative Meditative Pensive Reflective Speculative	<b>Serious</b> Formal Grave Grim Sober Solemn Somber	<b>Dedicated, Inspiring, Urgent</b>  Determined Earnest Passionate Persevering Tenacious Undaunted Vehement	<b>Confident, Strong</b>  Assertive Authoritative Decisive Self-assured  <b>Firm</b> Emphatic Insistent
<b>Objective, Reasonable</b>  Calm Factual Impartial Logical Matter of fact Neutral Pragmatic Unbiased	<b>Composed, Dignified, Proud</b>  Collected Level-headed Restrained	<b>Genuine, Honest</b>  Candid Direct Forthright Frank Sincere Straightforward	<b>Appreciative</b>  Grateful Pleased Thankful Touched  <b>Modest</b> Humble Self-Deprecating Self-Effacing Unassuming	<b>Patient, Obliging, Cooperative</b>  Accommodating Agreeable Conciliatory Compromising Indulgent Mollifying Placating Tolerant	<b>Forgiving</b>  Merciful	<b>Content, Relaxed</b>  Gratified Harmonious Peaceful Relieved Rejuvenated Satisfied Serene Soothing Tranquil
<b>Informal, Lighthearted, Funny</b>  Amused Casual Comical Hilarious Humorous Joking Mischievous Playful Silly Teasing Whimsical Wry	<b>Supportive, Protective</b>  Caring Comforting Consoling Encouraging Gentle Inclusive Reassuring Soothing	<b>Kind, Compassionate</b>  Benevolent Empathetic Humane Humanitarian Sympathetic Understanding  <b>Loving</b> Affectionate Tender Warm	<b>Friendly, Polite</b>  Civil Cordial Conversational Gracious Pleasant Welcoming	<b>Awestruck</b> Adoring Infatuated Worshipful  <b>Approving</b> Admiring Complimentary Proud	<b>Devoted, Loyal</b>  Dutiful Patriotic Pious Religious	<b>Respectful</b> Deferential Reverent
<b>Charming</b>  Chivalrous Familiar Flirtatious Intimate Seductive	<b>Curious, Interested</b>  Enthralled Fascinated Inquisitive Intrigued Provocative	<b>Excited</b> Animated Ecstatic Elated Energetic Enthusiastic Exhilarated Lively	<b>Celebratory</b> Triumphant Victorious	<b>Happy</b> Blissful Cheerful Delighted Euphoric Giddy Jovial Joyful Jubilant	<b>Hopeful, Optimistic</b>  Buoyant Expectant Idealistic Positive Upbeat Uplifting	<b>Add Your Own</b>

Sometimes to best characterize tone, you need to combine two different tones together. Examples:

Blissfully ignorant, complacently resigned, or wistfully sad.

Created by G. Heskett (updated: 6-23-19)