Tone Vocabulary

**Tone:** is the writer’s attitude toward the subject, characters, or audience. A writer’s tone may be informal, friendly, distant, personal, pompous.

1. Allusive intimate, suggest, connote, hinting
2. Angry furious, irate, annoyed, livid
3. Bantering good-natured teasing, ridicule, joking
4. Benevolent magnanimous, generous, noble
5. Burlesque mockery, sham, spoof, parody
6. Candid clear, frank, genuine, sincere
7. Clinical direct, detached, scientific, impersonal
8. Colloquial common/ordinary, vernacular
9. Compassionate kindly, empathetic, considerate
10. Complimentary flattering, approving, laudatory
11. Concerned touched, affected, influenced
12. Condescending arrogant, lofty, superior
13. Confident positive, certain, assured
14. Contemptuous pompous, arrogant, haughty
15. Contentious argumentative, quarrelsome, belligerent
16. Cynical adverse, suspicious, opposed, doubtful, dubious
17. Detached separated, severed, apathetic
18. Didactic pointed, bombastic, pompous, terse, informative, histrionic
19. Diffident retiring, timid, hesitant, bashful
20. Disdainful haughty, arrogant, supercilious
21. Dramatic exciting, moving, sensational, emotional
22. Effusive talkative, verbose, profuse
23. Elegiac sad, mournful, plaintive (like an elegy)
24. Factious dissident, rebellious, insubordinate
25. Factual authentic, genuine, truthful
26. Fanciful capricious, extravagant, bizarre, imaginary
27. Flippant offhand, facetious, glib, dismissive
28. Impartial equitable, unbiased, dispassionate
29. Incisive cutting, biting, penetrating
30. Indignant irritated, resentful, vexed, incensed, piqued
31. Inflammatory irritate, arouse, seditious, incendiary
32. Informative acquaint, communicate, disclose
33. Insipid flat, blank, tedious, banal (commonplace)
34. Insolent insulting, brazen, rude, impudent, audacious
35. Ironic contradictory, implausible, incongruous
36. Irreverent profane, impious, blasphemous, ungodly
37. Learned skilled, experienced, professional
38. Lugubrious gloomy, dismal, melancholy, somber
39. Maudlin insipid, over-emotional, self-pitying
40. Mock-heroic mimicking courage (pretend)
41. Mock-serious mimiching solemnity (pretend)
42. Moralistic virtuous, righteous, blameless
43. Objective impartial, detached, impersonal
44. Patronizing scornful, disdainful, demeaning, belittling
45. Pedantic academic, bookish, scholastic
46. Petty trivial, insignificant, narrow-minded
47. Pretentious arrogant, boastful, conceited
48. Restrained unwilling, hesitant, reluctant
49. Sardonic cutting, biting, penetrating, satirical
50. Satiric lampooning, facetious
51. Scornful bitter, caustic, acrimonious, mordant
52. Sentimental emotional, tearful, romantic, remembrance
53. Somber serious, dismal, shadowy
54. Sympathetic supportive, favorable, considerate
55. Taunting insulting, derisive, provoking, teasing, hurtful
56. Terse concise, succinct, pithy, pointed
57. Turgid pompous, bloated, swollen, distended
58. Urgent compelling, demanding, imperative, pressing
59. Vibrant resonant, active, resounding
60. Whimsical flippant, frivolous, light-hearted, dainty