Tone Words and Definitions

**Tone** is more than merely an author’s attitude toward his/her audience and characters; it is the stylistic means by which an author conveys his/her attitude(s) in a work of literature.

Tone is an integral part of a work’s **meaning** because it controls the reader’s response which is essential to fully experiencing literature and understanding rhetoric. **To misinterpret tone is to misinterpret meaning.**

In order to recognize **tonal shift** and to interpret **complexities of tone**, the reader must be able to make inferences based on an active reading of the work. The author's tone is revealed by organization, choice of detail, and sentence structure or syntax, but **word choice** is probably the strongest indicator of tone.

**Directions:** Familiarize yourself with the denotations and connotations of the following **tone words**. This is by no means a comprehensive list! You should also practice utilizing adjective and adverb forms of each word:

- **adjective:** Mr. Hames uses a **mocking** tone when he describes Mr. Depew as a literary genius.
- **adverb:** Mr. Hames **mockingly** describes Mr. Depew as a literary genius.

1. **Abashed:** ashamed or embarrassed; disconcerted
2. **Abhorring:** to regard with extreme repugnance or aversion; detest utterly; loathe; abominate
3. **Abstruse:** difficult to understand
4. **Absurd:** ridiculous; silly
5. **Accusing:** to charge with the fault, offense, or crime
6. **Acerbic:** harsh or severe, as of temper or expression
7. **Admiring:** to regard with wonder, pleasure, or approval
8. **Admonishing:** cautioning, advising, or counseling against something; reproving or scolding, especially in a mild and good-willed manner; reminding
9. **Adoring:** to regard with the utmost esteem, love, and respect; honor.
10. **Affectionate:** showing, indicating, or characterized by affection or love; fondly tender
11. **Afraid**
12. **Ambiguous:** open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations
13. **Ambivalent:** uncertainty or fluctuation, esp. when caused by inability to make a choice or by a simultaneous desire to say or do two opposite or conflicting things
14. **Amused:** pleasurably entertained, occupied, or diverted
15. **Angry**
16. **Annoyed:** To cause slight irritation to (another) by troublesome, often repeated acts
17. **Antagonistic:** acting in opposition; opposing, esp. mutually/ hostile; unfriendly
18. **Anxious:** full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune; greatly worried; solicitous/ earnestly desirous; eager
19. **Apathetic:** having or showing little or no emotion/ not interested or concerned; indifferent or unresponsive
20. **Apologetic**: containing an apology or excuse for a fault, failure, insult, injury

21. **Appreciative**: feeling or expressive of gratitude

22. **Apprehensive**: uneasy or fearful about something that might happen

23. **Approving**: to speak or think favorably of; pronounce or consider agreeable or good; judge favorably

24. **Ardent**: characterized by intense feeling; passionate; fervent; intensely devoted, eager, or enthusiastic; zealous; vehement; fierce

25. **Arrogant**: making claims or pretensions to superior importance or rights; overbearingly assuming; insolently proud

26. **Audacious**: extremely bold or daring; recklessly brave; fearless

27. **Authoritarian**: having an air of authority; accustomed to exercising authority; positive; peremptory; dictatorial

28. **Baffled**: to confuse, bewilder, or perplex

29. **Bantering**: Good-humored, playful conversation

30. **Belligerent**: warlike; given to waging war

31. **Bemused**: bewildered or confused/ lost in thought; preoccupied

32. **Benevolent**: characterized by or expressing goodwill or kindly feelings

33. **Bewildered**: completely puzzled or confused; perplexed

34. **Biting**: nipping; smarting; keen/ cutting; sarcastic

35. **Bitter**: having a harsh, disagreeably acrid taste, like that of aspirin, quinine, wormwood, or aloe; characterized by intense antagonism or hostility; hard to admit or accept

36. **Blite**: joyous, merry, or gay in disposition; glad; cheerful

37. **Blunt**: abrupt in address or manner/ slow in perception or understanding; obtuse

38. **Bold**: not hesitating or fearful in the face of danger or rebuff; courageous and daring; not hesitating to break the rules of propriety; forward; impudent

39. **Bored**

40. **Brisk**: quick and active; lively/ sharp and stimulating

41. **Brusque**: abrupt in manner; blunt; rough

42. **Burlesque**: an artistic composition, esp. literary or dramatic, that, for the sake of laughter, vulgarizes lofty material or treats ordinary material with mock dignity

43. **Calm**: without rough motion; still or nearly still/ free from excitement or passion; tranquil

44. **Candid**: frank; outspoken; open and sincere/ free from reservation, disguise, or subterfuge; straightforward

45. **Capricious**: flighty; led by whims; erratic

46. **Casual**: without definite or serious intention; careless or offhand; passing/

47. **Caustic**: making biting, corrosive comments

48. **Celebratory**: seeming or tending to be indifferent to what is happening; apathetic; unconcerned

49. **Censorious**: severely critical; faultfinding

50. **Ceremonial**: of, pertaining to, or characterized by ceremony; formal; ritual

51. **Cheerful**: characterized by or expressive of good spirits or cheerfulness

52. **Cheery**: in good spirits
53. Childish: of, like, or befitting a child/ puerile; weak; silly

54. Choleric: extremely irritable or easily angered; irascible

55. Clinical: concerned with or based on actual observation and treatment of disease in patients rather than experimentation or theory/ extremely objective and realistic; dispassionately analytic; unemotionally critical

56. Cold

57. Colloquial: characteristic of or appropriate to ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing; informal.

58. Comforting: To soothe in time of affliction or distress.

59. Comic - funny; humorous

60. Commanding: appreciably superior or imposing; winning; sizable

61. Compassionate: having or showing compassion

62. Complex: characterized by a very complicated or involved arrangement of parts, units, etc.:

63. Complicated: composed of elaborately interconnected parts; complex

64. Complimentary: of the nature of, conveying, or expressing a compliment, often one that is politely flattering

65. Conceited: having an excessively favorable opinion of one's abilities, appearance, etc.

66. Concerned: interested or affected/ troubled or anxious/ having a connection or involvement; participating

67. Conciliatory: To overcome the distrust or animosity of; appease

68. Condemnatory: To express strong disapproval

69. Condescending: showing or implying a usually patronizing descent from dignity or superiority

70. Confident: having strong belief or full assurance; sure/ sure of oneself; having no uncertainty about one's own abilities, correctness, successfulness, etc.; self-confident; bold

71. Confused: to perplex or bewilder/ to make unclear or indistinct

72. Contemptuous: showing or expressing contempt or disdain; scornful

73. Contented: Desiring no more than what one has; satisfied/ Ready to accept or acquiesce; willing

74. Contentious: tending to argument or strife; quarrelsome/ causing, involving, or characterized by argument or controversy

75. Conversational: The spoken exchange of thoughts, opinions, and feelings; talk

76. Critical: inclined to find fault or to judge with severity, often too readily

77. Curt: rudely brief in speech or abrupt in manner/ brief; concise; terse; laconic

78. Cynical: scornful of the motives or virtues of others; bitterly or sneeringly distrustful, contemptuous, or pessimistic

79. Demanding: requiring or claiming more than is generally felt by others to be due/ calling for intensive effort or attention; taxing

80. Depressed: sad and gloomy; dejected; downcast/ pressed down, or situated lower than the general surface

81. Derisive: characterized by or expressing derision; contemptuous; mocking
82. **Derogatory**: tending to lessen the merit or reputation of a person or thing; disparaging; depreciatory

83. **Despairing**: To be overcome by a sense of futility or defeat/ To lose all hope

84. **Desperate**: reckless or dangerous because of despair or urgency/ having an urgent need, desire, etc.: 

85. **Detached**: impartial or objective; disinterested; unbiased/ not involved or concerned; aloof

86. **Diabolic**: having the qualities of a devil; devilish; fiendish; outrageously wicked

87. **Didactic**: intended for instruction; instructive

88. **Diffident**: lacking confidence in one's own ability, worth, or fitness; timid; shy

89. **Direct**: proceeding in a straight line or by the shortest course; straight; undeviating; not oblique

90. **Disappointed**: depressed or discouraged by the failure of one's hopes or expectations

91. **Disbelieving**: to have no belief in; refuse or reject belief in

92. **Disdainful**: expressing extreme contempt

93. **Disgusted**: To excite nausea or loathing in; sicken/ To offend the taste or moral sense of; repel

94. **Disrespectful**: Having or exhibiting a lack of respect; rude and discourteous

95. **Disturbed**: marked by symptoms of mental illness:/ agitated or distressed; disrupted

96. **Dogmatic**: asserting opinions in a doctrinaire or arrogant manner; opinionated

97. **Domineering**: overbearing; tyrannical

98. **Doubtful**: of uncertain outcome or result

99. **Dramatic**: of or pertaining to the drama/ Arresting or forceful in appearance or effect

100. **Dreary**: causing sadness or gloom./ dull; boring

101. **Dubious**: wavering or hesitating in opinion; inclined to doubt

102. **Earnest**: serious in intention, purpose, or effort; sincerely zealous

103. **Ebullient**: overflowing with fervor, enthusiasm, or excitement; high-spirited

104. **Ecstatic**: subject to or in a state of ecstasy; rapturous

105. **Effusive**: unduly demonstrative; lacking reserve

106. **Egotistical**: given to talking about oneself; vain; boastful; opinionated; indifferent to the well-being of others; selfish

107. **Elated**: very happy or proud; jubilant; in high spirits

108. **Elegiac**: expressing sorrow or lamentation

109. **Elevated**: exalted or noble; lofty/ exalted or noble; lofty

110. **Eloquent**: having or exercising the power of fluent, forceful, and appropriate speech

111. **Embarrassed**: To cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert

112. **Emotionless

113. **Empathetic**: showing empathy or ready comprehension of others' states

114. **Encouraging**: to inspire with courage, spirit, or confidence/ to stimulate by assistance, approval, etc/ to promote, advance, or foster

115. **Energetic**
116. **Enraged**: to make extremely angry; put into a rage; infuriate

117. **Enthusiastic**: having or showing great excitement and interest

118. **Erudite**: characterized by great knowledge; learned or scholarly

119. **Eulogistic**: To praise highly in speech or writing, especially in a formal eulogy

120. **Euphoric**: a feeling of happiness, confidence, or well-being sometimes exaggerated in pathological states as mania

121. **Evasive**: deliberately vague or ambiguous/ tending or seeking to evade; characterized by evasion

122. **Excited**

123. **Exhilarated**: to enliven; invigorate; stimulate/ to make cheerful or merry

124. **Exhortatory**: advising, urging, or cautioning earnestly; urgently admonishing

125. **Expectant**: marked by eager anticipation

126. **Exuberant**: effusively and almost uninhibitedly enthusiastic; lavishly abundant

127. **Facetious**: not meant to be taken seriously or literally/ amusing; humorous

128. **Factual**: of or pertaining to facts; concerning facts

129. **Familiar**: commonly or generally known or seen/ informal; easygoing; unceremonious; unconstrained

130. **Fanciful**: characterized by or showing fancy; capricious or whimsical in appearance

131. **Farcical**: ludicrous; absurd; mocking; humorous and highly improbable

132. **Fatalistic**: the acceptance of all things and events as inevitable; submission to fate

133. **Fearful**: feeling fear, dread, apprehension, or solicitude/ full of awe or reverence/ extreme in size, intensity, or badness

134. **Fervent**: having or showing great warmth or intensity of spirit, feeling, enthusiasm, etc.; ardent

135. **Flippant**: frivolously disrespectful, shallow, or lacking in seriousness; characterized by levity

136. **Forceful**: powerful

137. **Foreboding**: a strong inner feeling or notion of a future misfortune, evil, etc.; presentiment

138. **Formal**: stiff; using textbook style; following accepted styles, rules or ceremonies

139. **Forthright**: going straight to the point; frank; direct; outspoken

140. **Frantic**: desperate or wild with excitement, passion, fear, pain, etc.; frenzied

141. **Frightened**: To fill with fear; alarm

142. **Frivolous**: characterized by lack of seriousness or sense/ self-indulgently carefree; unconcerned about or lacking any serious purpose/ of little or no weight, worth, or importance; not worthy of serious notice

143. **Frustrated**: disappointed; thwarted

144. **Furious**: full of fury, violent passion, or rage; extremely angry; enraged

145. **Gentle**: kind; considerate; mild; soft

146. **Ghoulish**: strangely diabolical or cruel; monstrous; delighting in the revolting or loathsome

147. **Giddy**: frivolous and lighthearted; impulsive; flighty/ attended with or causing dizziness
148. **Gleeful**: full of exultant joy; merry; delighted.

149. **Gloomy**: dark or dim; deeply shaded; hopeless or despairing; pessimistic

150. **Grand**: impressive in size, appearance, or general effect; stately, majestic, or dignified; of great importance, distinction, or pretension

151. **Grave**: serious or solemn; sober; weighty, momentous, or important; threatening a seriously bad outcome or involving serious issues; critical

152. **Grim**: stern and admitting of no appeasement or compromise; having a harsh, surly, forbidding, or morbid air

153. **Happy**

154. **Harsh**: ungentle and unpleasant in action or effect; physically uncomfortable; desolate; stark; unpleasantly rough, ragged, or coarse to the touch

155. **Haughty**: disdainfully proud; snobbish; scornfully arrogant; supercilious

156. **Hilarious**: arousing great merriment; extremely funny

157. **Histrionic**: Over the top dramatic

158. **Holier-than-thou**: obnoxiously pious; sanctimonious; self-righteous

159. **Hollow**: not solid; empty; without real or significant worth; meaningless; insincere or false

160. **Hopeful**: full of hope; expressing

161. **Hopeless**: providing no hope; beyond optimism or hope; desperate

162. **Horrified**: showing or indicating great shock or horror

163. **Hostile**: characteristic of an enemy; opposed in feeling, action, or character; antagonistic; not friendly, warm, or generous; not hospitable

164. **Humorous**: characterized by humor; funny; comical

165. **Impartial**: not partial or biased; fair; just

166. **Impassioned**: filled with emotion; ardent

167. **Impassive**: without emotion; apathetic; unmoved; calm; serene

168. **Impatient**: not patient; not accepting delay, opposition, pain, etc., with calm or patience

169. **Impertinent**: insolently rude; uncivil

170. **Impudent**: characterized by impertinence or effrontery

171. **Incisive**: penetrating; cutting; biting; trenchant; remarkably clear and direct; sharp; keen; acute

172. **Incredulous**: not credulous; disinclined or indisposed to believe; skeptical

173. **Indifferent**: without interest or concern; not caring; apathetic; having no bias, prejudice, or preference; impartial; disinterested

174. **Indignant**: feeling, characterized by, or expressing strong displeasure at something considered unjust, offensive, insulting, or base

175. **Indirect**: not in a direct course or path; deviating from a straight line; roundabout; not straightforward; devious; deceitful

176. **Inflamatory**: tending to arouse anger, hostility, passion, etc.

177. **Informal**: without formality or ceremony; casual; suitable to or characteristic of casual and familiar, but educated, speech or writing; not according to the prescribed, official, or customary way or manner; irregular; unofficial
178. **Informative**: giving information; instructive/ tending to increase knowledge or dissipate ignorance

179. **Insecure**: subject to fears, doubts, etc.; not self-confident or assured

180. **Insipid**: without distinctive, interesting, or stimulating qualities; vapid

181. **Insistent**: earnest or emphatic in dwelling upon, maintaining, or demanding something; persistent; pertinacious

182. **Insolent**: boldly rude or disrespectful; contemptuously impertinent; insulting

183. **Instructive**: serving to instruct or inform; conveying instruction, knowledge, or information; enlightening

184. **Interested**: having the attention or curiosity engaged/ characterized by a feeling of interest

185. **Intimate**: associated in close personal relations/ very private; closely personal/ detailed; deep

186. **Introspective**: given to examining own sensory and perceptual experiences

187. **Ironic**: containing or exemplifying irony/ coincidental; unexpected

188. **Irascible**: easily provoked to anger; very irritable

189. **Irreverent**: showing lack of due respect or veneration

190. **Irritated**: angered, provoked, or annoyed

191. **Jocund**: cheerful; merry; gay; blithe; glad

192. **Joking**

193. **Jovial**: endowed with or characterized by a hearty, joyous humor or a spirit of good-fellowship

194. **Joyful**: full of joy, as a person or one's heart; glad; delighted/ causing or bringing joy, as an event, a sight, or news; delightful

195. **Joyous**: joyful; happy; jubilant

196. **Laudatory**: containing or expressing praise

197. **Learned**: having much knowledge; scholarly; erudite/ connected or involved with the pursuit of knowledge, esp. of a scholarly nature

198. **Lighthearted**: carefree; cheerful; gay

199. **Lively**: full or suggestive of life or vital energy; active, vigorous, or brisk/ animated, spirited, vivacious, or sprightly

200. **Lofty**: exalted in rank, dignity, or character; eminent/ elevated in style, tone, or sentiment, as writings or speech

201. **Loving**: affectionate; showing intense, deep concern for someone or something

202. **Ludicrous**: causing laughter because of absurdity; provoking or deserving derision; ridiculous; laughable

203. **Lugubrious**: mournful, dismal, or gloomy, esp. in an affected, exaggerated, or unrelieved manner

204. **Lyrical**: Expressing deep personal emotion or observations; Highly enthusiastic; rhapsodic

205. **Malicious**: desiring to harm others or to see others suffer; ill-willed; spiteful

206. **Matter-of-fact**: adhering strictly to fact; not imaginative; direct or unemotional; straightforward; down-to-earth

207. **Meditative**: deeply or seriously thoughtful

208. **Melancholic**: characterized by or causing or expressing sadness
209. **Melodramatic**: exaggerated and emotional or sentimental; overdramatic

210. **Mirthful**: joyous; gay; jolly; arousing or provoking laughter

211. **Mischievous**: maliciously or playfully annoying; causing annoyance, harm, or trouble; rogishly or slyly teasing, as a glance; harmful or injurious

212. **Mock—serious**: pretending to be serious or in earnest

213. **Mock-heroic**: imitating or burlesquing that which is heroic, as in manner, character, or action

214. **Mocking**: To treat with ridicule or contempt; deride; To mimic, as in sport or derision

215. **Modest**: having or showing a moderate or humble estimate of one's merits, importance, etc.; free from vanity, egotism, boastfulness, or great pretensions; free from ostentation or showy extravagance

216. **Moralistic**: Characterized by or displaying a concern with morality; narrowly and conventionally moral

217. **Mournful**: feeling or expressing sorrow or grief; sorrowful; sad

218. **Mysterious**: of obscure nature, meaning, origin, etc.; puzzling; inexplicable

219. **Nervous**: highly excitable; unnaturally or acutely uneasy or apprehensive

220. **Nonchalant**: coolly unconcerned, indifferent, or unexcited; casual

221. **Nonplussed**: totally puzzled, perplexed, or confused

222. **Nostalgic**: unhappy about being away and longing for familiar things or persons

223. **Obdurate**: unmoved by persuasion, pity, or tender feelings; stubborn; unyielding; stubbornly resistant to moral influence

224. **Objective**: not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice; based on facts; unbiased

225. **Obsequious**: overly obedient and/or submissive

226. **Ominous**: portending evil or harm; foreboding; threatening; inauspicious

227. **Optimistic**: disposed to take a favorable view of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome

228. **Oratorical**: characteristic of an orator or oratory; given to making speeches

229. **Outraged**: angered and resentful; furious; extremely angered

230. **Outspoken**: frank; candid; uttered or expressed with frankness or without reserve

231. **Overbearing**: domineering; dictatorial; haughtily or rudely arrogant

232. **Panicked**

233. **Paranoid**: Exhibiting or characterized by extreme and irrational fear or distrust of others

234. **Passionate**: having, compelled by, or ruled by intense emotion or strong feeling; easily aroused to or influenced by sexual desire; ardently sensual; easily moved to anger; quick-tempered; irascible

235. **Pathetic**: causing or evoking pity, sympathetic sadness, sorrow, etc.; pitiful; pitiable

236. **Patronizing**: displaying or indicative of an offensively condescending manner

237. **Peaceful**: not disturbed by strife or turmoil or war; quiet; calm; without worry or disturbance
238. **Pedantic**: ostentatious in one's learning; overly concerned with minute details or formalisms, esp. in teaching

239. **Penitent**: feeling or expressing sorrow for sin or wrongdoing and disposed to atonement and amendment; repentant; contrite

240. **Pensive**: dreamily or wistfully thoughtful; expressing or revealing thoughtfulness, usually marked by some sadness

241. **Pessimistic**: expecting the worst possible outcome

242. **Petty**: of little or no importance or consequence

243. **Pitiful**

244. **Placid**: pleasantly calm or peaceful; unruffled; tranquil; serenely quiet or undisturbed

245. **Playful**: pleasantly humorous or jesting

246. **Poignant**: keenly distressing to the feelings; keen or strong in mental appeal

247. **Pompous**: characterized by an ostentatious display of dignity or importance

248. **Powerful**: having or exerting great power or force; potent; efficacious

249. **Pretentious**: characterized by assumption of dignity or importance

250. **Proud**: feeling pleasure or satisfaction over something regarded as highly honorable or creditable to oneself; having or showing self-respect or self-esteem

251. **Provocative**: serving or tending to provoke, excite, or stimulate; tending or serving to provoke; inciting, stimulating, irritating, or vexing

252. **Psychotic**: affected by psychosis; characterized by a loss of contact with reality and an inability to think rationally. A psychotic person often behaves inappropriately and is incapable of normal social functioning

253. **Quiet**

254. **Questioning**: characterized by or indicating intellectual curiosity; inquiring

255. **Reassuring**: to restore to assurance or confidence

256. **Rebellious**

257. **Recalcitrant**: resisting authority or control; not obedient or compliant; refractory

258. **Reflective**: given to, marked by, or concerned with meditation or deliberation

259. **Relaxed**: being free of or relieved from tension or anxiety

260. **Reminiscent**: awakening memories of something similar; suggestive

261. **Resigned**: submissive or acquiescent

262. **Respectful**: full of, characterized by, or showing politeness or deference

263. **Restrained**: To hold back or keep in check; control

264. **Reticent**: disposed to be silent or not to speak freely; reserved; restrained

265. **Reverent**: deeply respectful; showing great esteem

266. **Ridiculous**: causing or worthy of ridicule or derision; absurd; preposterous; laughable

267. **Righteous**: believing ones-self to be morally right and just; guiltless

268. **Risible**: causing or capable of causing laughter; laughable; ludicrous

269. **Romantic**: characterized by a preoccupation with love or by the idealizing of love or one's beloved; imbued with or dominated by idealism, a desire for adventure, chivalry, etc
270. Sad
271. Sanguine: cheerfully optimistic, hopeful, or confident
272. Sarcastic: expressing or expressive of ridicule that wounds
273. Sardonic: characterized by bitter or scornful derision; mocking; cynical; sneering
274. Satiric (satirical): exposing human folly to ridicule
275. Scholarly: concerned with academic learning and research
276. Scornful: expressing extreme contempt
277. Seductive: tending to entice into a desired action or state
278. Self-assured: Having or showing confidence and poise
279. Self-deprecating: belittling or undervaluing oneself; excessively modest
280. Selfish: devoted to or caring only for oneself; concerned primarily with one’s own interests, benefits, welfare, etc., regardless of others
281. Sentimental: weakly emotional; mawkishly susceptible or tender
282. Serene: calm, peaceful, or tranquil; unruffled
283. Serious: not funny; in earnest
284. Severe: harsh; unnecessarily extreme; serious or stern in manner or appearance
285. Sharp: clearly defined; distinct; keen or eager; fierce or violent
286. Shocked: struck with fear, dread, or consternation
287. Shocking: causing intense surprise, disgust, horror, etc
288. Silly
289. Sinister: threatening or portending evil, harm, or trouble; ominous
290. Skeptical: Marked by or given to doubt; questioning
291. Sly: cunning or wily; stealthy, insidious, or secret
292. Solemn: grave, sober, or mirthless, as a person, the face, speech, tone, or mood
293. Somber: gloomy, depressing, or dismal; extremely serious; grave
294. Sophomoric: suggestive of or resembling the traditional sophomore; intellectually pretentious, overconfident, conceited, etc., but immature
295. Speculative: theoretical, rather than practical
296. Sprightly: animated, vivacious, or gay; lively
297. Stable: not likely to fall or give way, as a structure, support, foundation, etc.; firm; steady
298. Stately: majestic; imposing in magnificence, elegance, etc
299. Stern: firm, strict, or uncompromising; hard, harsh, or severe
300. Stolid: not easily stirred or moved mentally; unemotional; impassive
301. Straightforward: direct; not roundabout; free from crookedness or deceit; honest
302. Strident: making or having a harsh sound; grating; creaking
303. Stubborn
304. Subdued: quiet; inhibited; repressed; controlled
305. **Supercilious:** haughtily disdainful or contemptuous

306. **Suspenseful:** characterized by or causing suspense

307. **Suspicious:** openly distrustful and unwilling to confide

308. **Sympathetic:** characterized by, proceeding from, exhibiting, or feeling sympathy; sympathizing; compassionate

309. **Taunting:** To reproach in a mocking, insulting, or contemptuous manner

310. **Tender:** soft or delicate in substance; not hard or tough

311. **Tense:** stretched tight, as a cord, fiber, etc.; drawn taut; rigid; characterized by a strain upon the nerves or feelings

312. **Terrified**

313. **Terse:** neatly or effectively concise; brief and pithy, as language

314. **Thoughtful:** showing consideration for others; considerate; occupied with or given to thought; contemplative; meditative; reflective

315. **Threatening:** tending or intended to menace; causing alarm, as by being imminent; ominous; sinister

316. **Timorous:** full of fear; fearful

317. **Tragic:** extremely mournful, melancholy, or pathetic; dreadful, calamitous, disastrous, or fatal

318. **Tranquil:** free from commotion or tumult; peaceful; quiet; calm

319. **Uncertain:** not confident, assured, or free from hesitancy; not clearly or precisely determined; indefinite; unknown

320. **Uncornered:** not involved or interested; disinterested; not caring; unworried; free from solicitude or anxiety

321. **Understated:** restrained in design, presentation, etc.; low-key

322. **Uneasy:** not easy in body or mind; uncomfortable; restless; disturbed; perturbed.

323. **Uninterested**

324. **Upset**

325. **Urgent:** compelling or requiring immediate action or attention; imperative; pressing

326. **Vexed:** irritated; annoyed

327. **Vibrant:** moving to and fro rapidly; vibrating

328. **Vindictive:** revengeful; spiteful; bitter; unforgiving

329. **Violent:** acting with or characterized by uncontrolled, strong, rough force; furious in impetuosity, energy, etc.

330. **Vitiolic:** very caustic; scathing

331. **Whimsical:** given to whimsy or fanciful notions; capricious

332. **Wistful:** characterized by melancholy; longing; yearning; pensive

333. **Worshipful:** showing adoration; showing great reverence

334. **Wrathful:** vehemently incensed and condemnatory; very angry; ireful

335. **Wry:** devious in course or purpose; misdirected; distorted or perverted, as in meaning; bitterly or disdainfully ironic or amusing

336. **Zealous:** ardently active, devoted, or diligent
Some TONE WORDS: Grouped with SYNONYMS

- simple, straightforward, direct, unambiguous, candid
- indirect, understated, evasive, allusive
- complicated, complex, difficult
- admiring, worshiping, approving
- complimentary, proud, effusive
- disliking, abhorring, contemptuous
- strident, harsh, acerbic, angry, outraged, violent, choleric, indignant, irascible
- forceful, powerful, confident
- energetic, vibrant
- ironic, sardonic, sarcastic, mocking, sly, wry
- satirical, critical
- sharp, biting
- bitter, grim, cynical
- interested, sympathetic, pitiful
- hollow, detached, cold, obdurate
- tired, bored, uninterested
- indifferent, unconcerned, disinterested, apathetic, impassive, emotionless, nonchalant
- impartial, objective
- humorous, playful, joking, frivolous, comical
- flippant, irreverent, facetious
- impish, silly, sophomoric, childish
- resigned, calm, tranquil, quiet, peaceful, reticent
- subdued, restrained, low-key
- sad, upset, depressed, melancholy, despairing
- afraid, fearful, horrific, terrified, panicked
- wistful, nostalgic, sentimental, tender, reminiscent
- solemn, serious, somber
- apologetic, penitent, ignominious
- recalcitrant, stubborn, rebellious
- apprehensive, anxious, pensive
- thoughtful, dreamy, fanciful

- vexed, uncertain, confused, ambivalent, nonplussed
- excited, exhilarated, exuberant
- ardent, fervent, zealous
- happy, contented, ecstatic, joyful, giddy
- incredulous, questioning, skeptical, dubious
- insistent, urgent, pressing
- pertinent, pointed, incisive
- commanding, demanding
- exhortatory, admonishing, censorious, damning
- condescending, arrogant, haughty
- elevated, grand, lofty, bombastic, pretentious, pompous
- oratorical, dramatic, melodramatic
- scornful, disdainful, supercilious, contemptuous
- audacious, bold, impudent, insolent
- alluring, provocative, seductive
- shocking, offensive, reprehensible, lurid
- didactic, instructive
- authoritarian, domineering, egotistical, overbearing, dogmatic
- erudite, learned, scholarly
- practical, pragmatic