

Tone Words and Their Meanings

If the tone is ...,	then the writer is... .
• accepting	➤ acknowledging an inability to change a situation
• accusatory	➤ blaming other people or things
• admiring	➤ showing his liking or respect of someone/something
• amused	➤ finding something entertaining or funny
• angry	➤ mad
• annoyed	➤ finding something bothersome or annoying
• apologetic	➤ sorry
• appreciative	➤ grateful; feeling thankful
• arrogant	➤ too proud; conceited
• awed	➤ filled with wonder and amazement
• bewildered	➤ confused; perplexed
• concerned	➤ worried about someone or something
• critical	➤ harsh; pointing out faults
• cruel	➤ mean and hurtful
• curious	➤ wanting to find out more
• cynical	➤ showing his lack of trust or faith in something or someone
• defensive	➤ defending himself, probably after feeling somewhat attacked
• defiant	➤ rebelling against authority; refusing to obey
• desperate	➤ without options to fix a situation
• disapproving	➤ not liking someone, something, or some action
• dramatic	➤ theatrical, often overly emotional

• encouraging	➤ supporting you because he believes you can do it
• enthusiastic	➤ emotionally charged with energy
• fearful	➤ scared
• formal	➤ showing appropriate manners and etiquette
• friendly	➤ treats his subject with kindness
• guilty	➤ feeling badly about something he/she has done or said
• happy	➤ cheerful; in a good mood
• hateful	➤ angrily disliking someone or something
• hopeful	➤ looking forward to something ➤ believing that something good will happen
• humorous	➤ amusing, comical, funny
• hurt	➤ feeling emotionally wounded
• imploring	➤ begging
• informal	➤ relaxed ➤ using very familiar language
• inspirational	➤ encouraging
• irritated	➤ annoyed; slightly angry or bothered
• judgmental	➤ critical of others
• loving	➤ showing tenderness toward someone or something
• macabre	➤ writing about death ➤ very dark in thoughts
• mischievous	➤ playing tricks for fun
• mocking	➤ ridiculing or making fun of someone
• negative	➤ pessimistic ➤ unhappy about a situation

• nostalgic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ thinking about the past ➤ wishing for something from the past
• objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ fair and impartial
• patriotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ showing a love of his/her country
• persuasive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ trying to convince
• proud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ extremely pleased with himself/herself or a situation ➤ overly pleased with himself/herself or a situation
• relieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ no longer worrying
• remorseful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ very sorry for something he/she has done or said
• respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ showing admiration for someone or something
• rude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ impolite and disrespectful
• sarcastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ saying the opposite of what he/she means as a way of being unfriendly or making a point
• satirical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ making fun of something to show weaknesses or teach lessons
• sentimental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ showing fondness based on a memory
• skeptical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ not believing what he/she has heard
• solemn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ extremely serious, often with a hint of sadness
• sorrowful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ extremely unhappy
• suspicious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ distrustful
• sympathetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ compassionate ➤ understanding feelings
• threatening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ wanting to harm ➤ suggesting harm to come
• triumphant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ celebrating a victory
• urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ insistent, saying something must be done soon

• **vindictive**

➤ wanting to get back at somebody for some perceived wrong