**Tone words**

| Tone | Meaning |
| --- | --- |
| **Accusatory** | suggesting someone has done something wrong, complaining |
| **Acerbic** | sharp; forthright; biting; hurtful; abrasive; severe |
| **Admiring** | approving; think highly of; respectful; praising |
| **Ambivalent** | having mixed feelings; uncertain; in a dilemma; undecided |
| **Apathetic** | showing little interest; lacking concern; indifferent; unemotional |
| **Apologetic** | full of regret; repentant; remorseful; acknowledging failure |
| **Appreciative** | grateful; thankful; showing pleasure; enthusiastic |
| **Ardent** | enthusiastic; passionate |
| **Arrogant** | pompous; disdainful; overbearing; condescending; vain; scoffing |
| **Assertive** | self-confident; strong-willed; authoritative; insistent |
| **Awestruck** | amazed, filled with wonder/awe; reverential |
| **Belligerent** | hostile; aggressive; combatant |
| **Benevolent** | sympathetic; tolerant; generous; caring; well-meaning |
| **Bitter** | angry; acrimonious; antagonistic; spiteful; nasty |
| **Callous** | cruel disregard; unfeeling; uncaring; indifferent; ruthless |
| **Candid** | truthful, straightforward; honest; unreserved |
| **Caustic** | making biting, corrosive comments; critical |
| **Cautionary** | gives warning; raises awareness; reminding |
| **Celebratory** | praising; pay tribute to; glorify; honour |
| **Chatty** | informal; lively; conversational; familiar |
| **Colloquial** | familiar; everyday language; informal; colloquial; casual |
| **Comic** | humorous; witty; entertaining; diverting |
| **Compassionate** | sympathetic; empathetic; warm-hearted; tolerant; kind |
| **Complex** | having many varying characteristics; complicated |
| **Compliant** | agree or obey rules; acquiescent; flexible; submissive |
| **Concerned** | worried; anxious; apprehensive |
| **Conciliatory** | intended to placate or pacify; appeasing |
| **Condescending** | stooping to the level of one’s inferiors; patronising |
| **Confused** | unable to think clearly; bewildered; vague |
| **Contemptuous** | showing contempt; scornful; insolent; mocking |
| **Critical** | finding fault; disapproving; scathing; criticising |
| **Cruel** | causing pain and suffering; unkind; spiteful; severe |
| **Curious** | wanting to find out more; inquisitive; questioning |
| **Cynical** | scornful of motives/virtues of others; mocking; sneering |
| **Defensive** | defending a position; shielding; guarding; watchful |
| **Defiant** | obstinate; argumentative; defiant; contentious |
| **Demeaning** | disrespectful; undignified |
| **Depressing** | sad, melancholic; discouraging; pessimistic |
| **Derisive** | snide; sarcastic; mocking; dismissive; scornful |
| **Detached** | aloof; objective; unfeeling; distant |
| **Dignified** | serious; respectful; formal; proper |
| **Diplomatic** | tactful; subtle; sensitive; thoughtful |
| **Disapproving** | displeased; critical; condemnatory |
| **Disheartening** | discouraging; demoralising; undermining; depressing |
| **Disparaging** | dismissive; critical; scornful |
| **Direct** | straightforward; honest |
| **Disappointed** | discouraged; unhappy because something has gone wrong |
| **Dispassionate** | impartial; indifferent; unsentimental; cold; unsympathetic |
| **Distressing** | heart-breaking; sad; troubling |
| **Docile** | compliant; submissive; deferential; accommodating |
| **Earnest** | showing deep sincerity or feeling; serious |
| **Egotistical** | self-absorbed; selfish; conceited; boastful |
| **Empathetic** | understanding; kind; sensitive |
| **Encouraging** | optimistic; supportive |
| **Enthusiastic** | excited; energetic |
| **Evasive** | ambiguous; cryptic; unclear |
| **Excited** | emotionally aroused; stirred |
| **Facetious** | inappropriate; flippant |
| **Farcical** | ludicrous; absurd; mocking; humorous and highly improbable |
| **Flippant** | superficial; glib; shallow; thoughtless; frivolous |
| **Forceful** | powerful; energetic; confident; assertive |
| **Formal** | respectful; stilted; factual; following accepted styles/rules |
| **Frank** | honest; direct; plain; matter-of-fact |
| **Frustrated** | annoyed; discouraged |
| **Gentle** | kind; considerate; mild; soft |
| **Ghoulish** | delighting in the revolting or the loathsome |
| **Grim** | serious; gloomy; depressing; lacking humour; macabre |
| **Gullible** | naïve; innocent; ignorant |
| **Hard** | unfeeling; hard-hearted; unyielding |
| **Humble** | deferential; modest |
| **Humorous** | amusing; entertaining; playful |
| **Hypercritical** | unreasonably critical; hair-splitting; nitpicking |
| **Impartial** | unbiased; neutral; objective |
| **Impassioned** | filled with emotion; ardent |
| **Imploring** | pleading; begging |
| **Impressionable** | trusting; child-like |
| **Inane** | silly; foolish; stupid; nonsensical |
| **Incensed** | enraged |
| **Incredulous** | disbelieving; unconvinced; questioning; suspicious |
| **Indignant** | annoyed; angry; dissatisfied |
| **Informative** | instructive; factual; educational |
| **Inspirational** | encouraging; reassuring |
| **Intense** | earnest; passionate; concentrated; deeply felt |
| **Intimate** | familiar; informal; confidential; confessional |
| **Ironic** | the opposite of what is meant |
| **Irreverent** | lacking respect for things that are generally taken seriously |
| **Jaded** | bored; having had too much of the same thing; lack enthusiasm |
| **Joyful** | positive; optimistic; cheerful; elated |
| **Judgmental** | critical; finding fault; disparaging |
| **Laudatory** | praising; recommending |
| **Light-hearted** | carefree; relaxed; chatty; humorous |
| **Loving** | affectionate; showing intense, deep concern |
| **Macabre** | gruesome; horrifying; frightening |
| **Malicious** | desiring to harm others or to see others suffer; ill-willed; spiteful |
| **Mean-spirited** | inconsiderate; unsympathetic |
| **Mocking** | scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone |
| **Mourning** | grieving; lamenting; woeful |
| **Naïve** | innocent; unsophisticated; immature |
| **Narcissistic** | self-admiring; selfish; boastful; self-pitying |
| **Nasty** | unpleasant; unkind; disagreeable; abusive |
| **Negative** | unhappy, pessimistic |
| **Nostalgic** | thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past |
| **Objective** | without prejudice; without discrimination; fair; based on facts |
| **Obsequious** | overly obedient and/or submissive; fawning; grovelling |
| **Optimistic** | hopeful; cheerful |
| **Outraged** | angered and resentful; furious; extremely angered |
| **Outspoken** | frank; candid; spoken without reserve |
| **Pathetic** | expressing pity, sympathy, tenderness |
| **Patronising** | condescending; scornful; pompous |
| **Pensive** | reflective; introspective; philosophical; contemplative |
| **Persuasive** | convincing; eloquent; influential; plausible |
| **Pessimistic** | seeing the negative side of things |
| **Philosophical** | theoretical; analytical; rational; logical |
| **Playful** | full of fun and good spirits; humorous; jesting |
| **Pragmatic** | realistic; sensible |
| **Pretentious** | affected; artificial; grandiose; rhetorical; flashy |
| **Regretful** | apologetic; remorseful |
| **Resentful** | aggrieved; offended; displeased; bitter |
| **Resigned** | accepting; unhappy |
| **Restrained** | controlled; quiet; unemotional |
| **Reverent** | showing deep respect and esteem |
| **Righteous** | morally right and just; guiltless; pious; god-fearing |
| **Satirical** | making fun to show weakness; ridiculing; derisive |
| **Sarcastic** | scornful; mocking; ridiculing |
| **Scathing** | critical; stinging; unsparing; harsh |
| **Scornful** | expressing contempt or derision; scathing; dismissive |
| **Sensationalistic** | provocative; inaccurate; distasteful |
| **Sentimental** | thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past |
| **Sincere** | honest; truthful; earnest |
| **Sceptical** | disbelieving; unconvinced; doubting |
| **Solemn** | not funny; in earnest; serious |
| **Subjective** | prejudiced; biased |
| **Submissive** | compliant; passive; accommodating; obedient |
| **Sulking** | bad-tempered; grumpy; resentful; sullen |
| **Sympathetic** | compassionate; understanding of how someone feels |
| **Thoughtful** | reflective; serious; absorbed |
| **Tolerant** | open-minded; charitable; patient; sympathetic; lenient |
| **Tragic** | disastrous; calamitous |
| **Unassuming** | modest; self-effacing; restrained |
| **Uneasy** | worried; uncomfortable; edgy; nervous |
| **Urgent** | insistent; saying something must be done soon |
| **Vindictive** | vengeful; spiteful; bitter; unforgiving |
| **Virtuous** | lawful; righteous; moral; upstanding |
| **Whimsical** | quaint; playful; mischievous; offbeat |
| **Witty** | clever; quick-witted; entertaining |
| **Wonder** | awe-struck; admiring; fascinating |
| **World-weary** | bored; cynical; tired |
| **Worried** | anxious; stressed; fearful |
| **Wretched** | miserable; despairing; sorrowful; distressed |

**Attitude words**

| Attitude | Meaning |
| --- | --- |
| **amused** |  |
| **angry** |  |
| **apathetic** |  |
| **appreciative** |  |
| **arrogant** |  |
| **artificial** |  |
| **audacious** |  |
| **authoritative** |  |
| **awe** |  |
| **bantering** |  |
| **belligerent** |  |
| **benevolent** |  |
| **brave** |  |
| **callous** |  |
| **calm** |  |
| **caustic** |  |
| **cheerful** |  |
| **cheery** |  |
| **childish** |  |
| **choleric** |  |
| **coarse** |  |
| **cold** |  |
| **comical** |  |
| **compassionate** |  |
| **complimentary** |  |
| **condemnatory** |  |
| **condescending** |  |
| **condescension** |  |
| **confident** |  |
| **consoling** |  |
| **contemplative** |  |
| **conventional** |  |
| **critical** |  |
| **cynical** |  |
| **disapproval** |  |
| **disdainful** |  |
| **disgruntled** |  |
| **disgusted** |  |
| **disinterested** |  |
| **dreamy** |  |
| **droll** |  |
| **earnest** |  |
| **ecstatic** |  |
| **elated** |  |
| **elevated** |  |
| **encouraging** |  |
| **energetic** |  |
| **enthusiastic** |  |
| **erudite** |  |
| **excited** |  |
| **exuberant** |  |
| **facetious** |  |
| **fanciful** |  |
| **flippant** |  |
| **forthright** |  |
| **friendly** |  |
| **furious** |  |
| **giddy** |  |
| **gloomy** |  |
| **happy** |  |
| **harsh** |  |
| **hateful** |  |
| **haughty** |  |
| **hopeful** |  |
| **humorous** |  |
| **hurtful** |  |
| **impassioned** |  |
| **indignant** |  |
| **inflammatory** |  |
| **insolent** |  |
| **insulting** |  |
| **intimate** |  |
| **ironic** |  |
| **irreverent** |  |
| **irritated** |  |
| **joking** |  |
| **jovial** |  |
| **joyful** |  |
| **jubilant** |  |
| **judgmental** |  |
| **lighthearted** |  |
| **loving** |  |
| **malicious** |  |
| **manipulative** |  |
| **mock-heroic** |  |
| **mocking** |  |
| **mock-serious** |  |
| **morose** |  |
| **objective** |  |
| **obnoxious** |  |
| **optimistic** |  |
| **outraged** |  |
| **passionate** |  |
| **passive** |  |
| **patronising** |  |
| **peaceful** |  |
| **pessimistic** |  |
| **playful** |  |
| **pleasant** |  |
| **pompous** |  |
| **proud** |  |
| **quarrelsome** |  |
| **quizzical** |  |
| **reflective** |  |
| **relaxed** |  |
| **reverent** |  |
| **ribald** |  |
| **ridicule** |  |
| **ridiculing** |  |
| **romantic** |  |
| **sad** |  |
| **sanguineous** |  |
| **sarcastic** |  |
| **sardonic** |  |
| **satiric** |  |
| **scornful** |  |
| **shameful** |  |
| **sharp** |  |
| **silly** |  |
| **sincere** |  |
| **smooth** |  |
| **snooty** |  |
| **solemn** |  |
| **soothing** |  |
| **superficial** |  |
| **surly** |  |
| **surprised** |  |
| **sweet** |  |
| **testy** |  |
| **threatening** |  |
| **tired** |  |
| **uninterested** |  |
| **vibrant** |  |
| **whimsical** |  |
| **wrathful** |  |
| **wry** |  |