**Tone**

Tone is the author’s attitude toward a subject. While journalistic writing theoretically has a tone of distance and objectivity, all other writing can have various tones. Tone can also be witnessed in music and visual expressions as well as writing.

If we were to read a description of a first date that included words and phrases like “dreaded” and “my buddies forced me to go on the date”, we could assume that the individual didn’t really enjoy the date.

Some tone words include:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **POSITIVE TONE WORDS** | | **NEUTRAL**  **(+**,**-**,**or neutral)** | **NEGATIVE TONE WORDS** | |
|  | |  |  | |
| admiring  adoring  affectionate  appreciative  approving  bemused  benevolent  blithe  calm  casual  celebratory  cheerful  comforting  comic  compassionate  complimentary  conciliatory  confident  contented  delightful  earnest  ebullient  ecstatic  effusive  elated  empathetic  encouraging  euphoric  excited  exhilarated  expectant  facetious  fervent  flippant  forthright  friendly  funny  gleeful  gushy  happy | hilarious  hopeful  humorous  interested  introspective  jovial  joyful  laudatory  light  lively  mirthful  modest  nostalgic  optimistic  passionate  placid  playful  poignant  proud  reassuring  reflective  relaxed  respectful  reverent  romantic  sanguine  scholarly  self-assured  sentimental  serene  silly  sprightly  straightforward  sympathetic  tender  tranquil  whimsical  wistful  worshipful  zealous | commanding  direct  impartial  indirect  meditative  objective  questioning  speculative  unambiguous  unconcerned  understated | abhorring  acerbic  ambiguous  ambivalent  angry  annoyed  antagonistic  anxious  apathetic  apprehensive  belligerent  bewildered  biting  bitter  blunt  bossy  cold  conceited  condescending  confused  contemptuous  curt  cynical  demanding  depressed  derisive  derogatory  desolate  despairing  desperate  detached  diabolic  disappointed  disliking  disrespectful  doubtful  embarrassed  enraged  evasive  fatalistic  fearful  forceful  foreboding  frantic  frightened  frustrated  furious  gloomy  grave  greedy  grim  harsh  haughty  holier-than-thou  hopeless | hostile  impatient  incredulous  indifferent  indignant  inflammatory  insecure  insolent  irreverent  lethargic  melancholy  mischievous  miserable  mocking  mournful  nervous  ominous  outraged  paranoid  pathetic  patronizing  pedantic  pensive  pessimistic  pretentious  psychotic  resigned  reticent  sarcastic  sardonic  scornful  self-deprecating  selfish  serious  severe  sinister  skeptical  sly  solemn  somber  stern  stolid  stressful  strident  suspicious  tense  threatening  tragic  uncertain  uneasy  unfriendly  unsympathetic  upset  violent  wry |