

# Tone Words and Definitions

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**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. **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 or voice is revealed by organization, choice of detail, and sentence structure, but **word choice** is probably the strongest indicator of tone.

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*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: Leo uses a mocking tone when he describes Mrs. Bilse as a literary genius.*

*adverb: Leo mockingly describes Mrs. Bilse as a literary genius.*

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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; reproof 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 aloes/ characterized by intense antagonism or hostility/ hard to admit or accept*
36. **Blithe:** *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.* *antagonistic/ not friendly, warm, or generous; not hospitable*
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. **Horrificed:** *showing or indicating great shock or horror*
163. **Hostile:** *characteristic of an enemy/ opposed in feeling, action, or character;*
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. **Inflammatory:** *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:** *servicing 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; roguishly 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:** *erving 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-depreciating:** *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. **Unconcerned:** *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. **Vitriolic:** *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