

BUILDING A TONE VOCABULARY

allusive	foreboding	oppressive
angry	frightening	outrageous
apologetic	frivolous	patronizing
arrogant	funereal	peaceful
audacious	giddy	pedantic
bantering	gleeful	petty
benevolent	happy	pitiful
bitter	hilarious	pleasant
boring	hollow	poignant
burlesque	horrific	pretentious
candid	hostile	proud
childish	humorous	restrained
chilling	hyperbolic	sad
clinical	impartial	sarcastic
cold	incisive	sardonic
compassionate	indignant	satiric
complimentary	inflammatory	scornful
condescending	informative	self-righteous
confident	insipid	sentimental
confused	insolent	sharp
contemptuous	ironic	shocking
contentious	irreverent	silly
cynical	irritating	somber
depressing	joyful	sweet
detached	joyous	sympathetic
didactic	learned	taunting
diffident	lugubrious	terrifying
disdainful	malevolent	tired
dramatic	melancholic	tragic
dreamy	melodramatic	unnerving
effusive	mock-heroic	uproarious
elegiac	mock-serious	upset
facetious	mocking	urgent
factual	moralistic	vexed
fanciful	nostalgic	vibrant
flippant	objective	warm
	ominous	wry

WORD CHOICE CONTROLS TONE

1. Dislike: resent, lament, hate, scorn, disapprove, decry, deplore, oppose, regret
2. Odd: bizarre, singular, outlandish, curious, unusual, extraordinary, remarkable, noteworthy, different, strange
3. Confess: admit, acknowledge, concede, give in, come clean, own, allow
4. Amateur: buff, enthusiast, nut, fan, connoisseur
5. Zealous: eager, excited, fanatical, avid, enthusiastic, passionate, frenzied, rabid, committed
6. Sentimental: corny, emotional, insipid, maudlin, poignant, romantic, sensitive, tender, touching, trite
7. Innocence: ignorance, naivete, simplicity, inexperience, credulity, gullibility, forthrightness, purity
8. Control: authority, command, domination, leadership, possession, power,
9. Calm: dispassionate, detached, docile, easy-going, tranquil, lifeless, passive, rational, serene, bland
10. Talkative: effusive, garrulous, loquacious, verbose, voluble, fluent, out-going

Add additional words to those above. Create your own groupings using words like *nice, pleasant, dull, rich, unhappy, leader, bad, good, thin, light, dark.*

TONE THROUGH CONNOTATION

Which words have negative, positive, or neutral effects on the reader?

1. corpulent, plump, obese, heavy set, fleshy, paunchy, burly, tubby, overweight, roly poly, bulky, portly, weighty, pudgy, chubby, well-developed, substantial, hefty
2. mansion, abode, dwelling, shack, domicile, residence, house, home, pad, lodging
3. snooty, arrogant, conceited, cocky, haughty, disdainful, vain, self-satisfied, self-assured, egotistical, confident, high-and-mighty, overbearing, proud, high-hat, supercilious
4. titter, giggle, chuckle, laugh, guffaw, roar, snicker, snigger, cackle, chortle, twitter
5. spinster, old maid, bachelor girl, unmarried woman, maiden lady, career woman, single woman, babe, doll, dame, feminist
6. bachelor, party guy, dude, unmarried man, single man, stud, sexist pig
7. thrifty, careful, miserly, tight, frugal, economical, penurious, penny-pinching, mean, budget-minded, prudent
8. shrewd, calculating, clever, sly, adroit, astute, cunning, skillful, knowing, slick, crafty, wily, shifty
9. glum, sullen, uncommunicative, silent, withdrawn, taciturn, reticent, shy, petulant
10. laconic, terse, economical, concise, pointed, pithy, compressed, boiled down, brief, succinct
11. steal, purloin, embezzle, filch, pilfer, burglarize, rob, hold up, snatch, grab, help oneself to, appropriate, swindle, borrow indefinitely
12. lie, prevaricate, dissemble, deceive, falsify, fib, equivocate, concoct, tell tales, embellish
13. nerdy, studious, independent, offbeat, different, oddball, loner, loser