

# A List of Words to Describe Tone

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## with definitions

1. **accusatory**-charging of wrong doing
2. **apathetic**-indifferent due to lack of energy or concern
3. **awe**-solemn wonder
4. **bitter**-exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or grief
5. **cynical**-questions the basic sincerity and goodness of people
6. **condescending**-a feeling of superiority
7. **contemplative**-studying, thinking, reflecting on an issue
8. **critical**-finding fault
9. **contemptuous**-feeling that something is worthless or lacks respect
10. **caustic**-stinging, biting
11. **conventional**-lacking originality and individuality
12. **disdainful**-scornful
13. **didactic**-wanting to educate or instruct the reader
14. **derisive**-ridiculing, mocking
15. **earnest**-a sincere state of mind
16. **erudite**-learned, polished, scholarly
17. **forthright**-directly frank without hesitation



18. **gloomy**-sadness, full of rejection
19. **haughty**-proud and vain to the point of arrogance
20. **indignant**-marked by anger aroused by injustice
21. **judgmental**-authoritative and often having critical opinions
22. **jovial**-happy
23. **mocking**-treating with contempt or ridicule
24. **malicious**-purposely hurtful
25. **objective**-an unbiased view-able to leave personal judgments aside
26. **optimistic**-hopeful, cheerful
27. **pessimistic**-seeing the worst side of things; no hope
28. **reverent**-treating a subject with honor and respect
29. **ridiculing**-slightly contemptuous banter; making fun of
30. **reflective**-illustrating innermost thoughts and emotions
31. **sarcastic**-sneering, caustic
32. **sardonic**-scornfully and bitterly sarcastic
33. **satiric**-ridiculing to show weakness in order to make a point, teach
34. **sincere**-without deceit or pretense; genuine
35. **solemn**-deeply earnest, tending toward sad reflection

