

# TONE WORD LIST

Directions: Read each of the tone words below. With a **green highlighter**, highlight any words that have a **positive connotation**. With an **orange highlighter**, highlight any words that have a **negative connotation**. With a **yellow highlighter**, highlight any words that have a **neutral connotation**.  
 REMEMBER: GREEN=POSITIVE      ORANGE=NEGATIVE      YELLOW=NEUTRAL

	Tone	Meaning
1	accusatory	blaming other people
2	agitated	emotionally disturbed; perturbed
3	allusive	a reference to something that is implied or inferred
4	ambivalent	having conflicting feelings
5	amused	entertained; thinking it is funny
6	angry	mad
7	anxious	worried or excited; uneasy and eager
8	apathetic	indifferent; doesn't care; not interested
9	apologetic	sorry
10	appreciative	grateful; thankful
11	apprehensive	uneasy or fearful about something that might happen
12	arrogant	too proud
13	audacious	extremely bold or daring; recklessly brave
14	awe	solemn wonder; amazement
15	beguiling	deceptive; cheating
16	bewilderment	confusion
17	bitter	angry or hateful
18	bored, boring	not interested
19	callous	insensitive
20	calm	relaxed; not excited

21	candid	straightforward; blunt
22	carefree	without worry; lighthearted; joyous
23	cheerful	happy
24	childish	befitting a child; the undesirable and unpleasant characteristics of a child
25	cold	lacking in passion, emotion; not affectionate or friendly
26	complimentary	politely flattering
27	composed	calm and serene
28	concerned	worried or interested
29	condescending	looking down on other people; feeling superior
30	contemplative	studying; thinking; reflective
31	contemptuous	feeling disgrace; disrespectful; scornful
32	courteous	nice; respectful
33	critical	finding fault
34	cruel	mean; hurtful
35	curious	wanting to find out more
36	cynical	questioning the truth or sincerity; skeptical
37	defensive	defending; protective
38	defiant	going against authority
39	depressed	unhappy, sad
40	desolate	solitary; lonely; dreary; dismal
41	desperate	frantic; without many options
42	despondent	profound hopelessness, discouragement, or gloom
43	detached	disinterested; unbiased; not involved or concerned
44	determination	not giving up

45	determined	not giving up
46	didactic	trying to teach something
47	diplomatic	trying not to offend people
48	direct	straightforward; honest
49	disappointed	discouraged; unhappy because something went wrong
50	disdainful	scornful; insulting
51	disgusting	yucky; to sicken
52	dissatisfied	unhappy; not satisfied
53	dramatic	theatrical
54	dreamy	soothing; restful; quieting
55	earnest	sincere; honest; intense
56	eccentric	odd; strange; different
57	ecstatic	great enthusiasm; a trancelike state of delight or ecstasy
58	egotistical	thinking only about himself; self-centered
59	eloquent	expressing ideas in a nice way; poetic; good with words
60	encouraging	optimistic; trying to convince you to do something because of a belief that you can do it
61	enthusiastic	excited; energetic
62	envious	jealous
63	excited	anxious
64	expectant	waiting
65	exultant	highly elated; jubilant; triumphant
66	fanciful	using the imagination; imaginative
67	fearful	afraid
68	formal	respectful, appropriate behavior

69	forthright	direct; honest without hesitation
70	frank	direct and unreserved in speech; straightforward; without inhibition
71	fretful	worried, annoyed or discontent
72	friendly	the way a person treats friends
73	frivolous	self-indulgently carefree; lacking any serious purpose
74	frustrated	angry because of not being able to do something
75	funny	humorous; amusing
76	gentle	not hurtful; careful
77	giddy	frivolous and lighthearted; impulsive; flighty
78	gloomy	dark; sad; depressed
79	happy	cheerful; in a good mood
80	hateful	hating something or someone; angry hate
81	haughty	proud; vain; arrogant
82	hesitant	lacking readiness; undecided
83	honest	truthful
84	hopeful	looking forward to something; optimistic
85	hopeless	without hope; despairing
86	horrific	provoking horror; horrible
87	humorous	funny
88	hysterical	very scared
89	idealistic	thinking of what is best; optimistic; not realistic
90	imaginative	creative; using the imagination
91	impersonal	not personal; lacking emotion or warmth
92	incensed	to inflame with wrath; make angry; enrage

93	indifferent	unconcerned; not interested
94	indignant, indignation	angry because something is not fair or is considered offensive
95	informal	not formal; relaxed
96	innocent	not guilty
97	inspirational	encouraging; reassuring
98	intimate	very familiar; the way one talks to close friends or family
99	ironic	different than what is expected or the opposite of what is meant
100	irreverent	disrespectful
101	irritated	annoyed
102	jittery	extremely tense and nervous; jumpy
103	jovial	happy
104	judgmental	judging others; critical
105	lackadaisical	lazy
106	lethargic	sleepy
107	lighthearted	happy, carefree
108	lofty	arrogant
109	lugubrious	mournful or gloomy in an exaggerated manner
110	macabre	about death
111	malevolent	mean; angry; purposely hateful
112	malicious	purposely hurtful; very mean
113	matter-of-fact	truthful; accepting of conditions; straightforward
114	melancholy	sad
115	mirthful	joyful, jolly
116	mischievous	playing tricks for fun

117	mocking	scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone
118	morose	gloomily or sullenly ill-humored; moody; sour; glum
119	negative	unhappy; pessimistic
120	nervous	worried; uneasy; anxious
121	neutral	not good nor bad; not for nor against
122	nostalgic	thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past
123	objective	without prejudice; without discrimination; fair
124	oppressed	burdened with cruel restraints; subject to a harsh exercise of power
125	optimistic	hopeful; cheerful
126	outspoken	expressed with frankness; free speech
127	patient	willing to wait; not in a hurry
128	patronizing	looking down on others; acting superior
129	pensive	thinking, thoughtful
130	perplexed	confused; puzzled
131	persuasive	trying to convince
132	pessimistic	seeing the bad side of things
133	pitiful	pathetic; exhibiting suffering and misery
134	placid	pleasantly calm or peaceful; tranquil
135	poetic	expressing beautiful thoughts or words
136	poignant	affecting or moving the emotions; sincere; heartfelt
137	proud	full of pride in something; thinking that something is better than others
138	quizzical	questioning; eccentric; odd; amusing
139	redolent	suggestive or reminiscent of something
140	reflective	thoughtful; meditative; thinking

141	regret	feeling bad about the past
142	relaxation, relaxed	relaxed; not worried; not busy
143	relieved	stop being worried
144	remorseful	very sad; sorrowful; regretful
145	resentful	feeling displeasure or anger at some act, remark or person
146	restrained	to hold back; restricted; limited
147	reverent	respectful; treating something with honor and respect
148	rude	not polite
149	sarcastic	sneering; saying the opposite of what you mean as a way of being unfriendly or making a point
150	sardonic	scornful; very sarcastic
151	satirical	making fun of something to show its weakness or to teach a lesson
152	scornful	open contempt or disdain for something
153	sharp	sly; clever in an underhand way; harsh
154	sentimental	thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past
155	serious	not funny; not joking
156	sincere	honest; truthful; earnest
157	snobbish	acting as though one is better than everyone else; egocentric
158	solemn	sad or quiet reflection
159	solitude	loneliness
160	somber	gloomy; depressing; dismal
161	stiff	formal, serious
162	straightforward	direct; honest
163	stubborn	refusing to give in
164	surprised	startled; amazed

165	suspense, suspenseful	wondering what will happen next
166	sympathetic	compassionate; understanding of how someone feels
167	tearful	sad; causing tears
168	tense	nervous; emotionally or mentally straining
169	thankful	grateful; giving thanks
170	threatening	menacing
171	tolerant	accepting of others
172	tragic	very sad
173	upset	distressed; agitated; disturb mentally or emotionally
174	urgent	insistent; saying something must be done soon
175	vexed	annoyed; confused
176	vibrant	energetic; vivid; full of life
177	vindictive	revengeful; wanting to get back at someone
178	whimsical	playful; funny; odd
179	woeful	dreadful; sorrowful; miserable
180	zealous	devoted; enthusiastic; eager; passionate
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