|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TONE** | **Meaning** |
| **ABSURD** | illogical; ridiculous; silly; implausible; foolish |
| **ACCUSATORY** | suggesting someone has done something wrong, complaining |
| **ACERBIC** | sharp; forthright; biting; hurtful; abrasive; severe |
| **ADMIRING** | approving; think highly of; respectful; praising |
| **AGGRESSIVE** | hostile; determined; forceful; argumentative |
| **AGGRIEVED** | indignant; annoyed; offended; disgruntled |
| **AMBIVALENT** | having mixed feelings; uncertain; in a dilemma; undecided |
| **AMUSED** | entertained; diverted; pleased |
| **ANGRY** | incensed or enraged; threatening or menacing |
| **ANIMATED** | full of life or excitement; lively; spirited; impassioned; vibrant |
| **APATHETIC** | showing little interest; lacking concern; indifferent; unemotional |
| **APOLOGETIC** | full of regret; repentant; remorseful; acknowledging failure |
| **APPRECIATIVE** | grateful; thankful; showing pleasure; enthusiastic |
| **ARDENT** | enthusiastic; passionate |
| **ARROGANT** | pompous; disdainful; overbearing; condescending; vain; scoffing |
| **ASSERTIVE** | self-confident; strong-willed; authoritative; insistent |
| **AWESTRUCK** | amazed, filled with wonder/awe; reverential |
| **BELLIGERENT** | hostile; aggressive; combatant |
| **BENEVOLENT** | sympathetic; tolerant; generous; caring; well meaning |
| **BITTER** | angry; acrimonious; antagonistic; spiteful; nasty |
| **CALLOUS** | cruel disregard; unfeeling; uncaring; indifferent; ruthless |
| **CANDID** | truthful, straightforward; honest; unreserved |
| **CAUSTIC** | making biting, corrosive comments; critical |
| **CAUTIONARY** | gives warning; raises awareness; reminding |
| **CELEBRATORY** | praising; pay tribute to; glorify; honour |
| **CHATTY** | informal; lively; conversational; familiar |
| **COLLOQUIAL** | familiar; everyday language; informal; colloquial; casual |
| **COMIC** | humorous; witty; entertaining; diverting |
| **COMPASSIONATE** | sympathetic; empathetic; warm-hearted; tolerant; kind |
| **COMPLEX** | having many varying characteristics; complicated |
| **COMPLIANT** | agree or obey rules; acquiescent; flexible; submissive |
| **CONCERNED** | worried; anxious; apprehensive |
| **CONCILIATORY** | intended to placate or pacify; appeasing |
| **CONDESCENDING** | stooping to the level of one’s inferiors; patronising |
| **CONFUSED** | unable to think clearly; bewildered; vague |
| **CONTEMPTUOUS** | showing contempt; scornful; insolent; mocking |
| **CRITICAL** | finding fault; disapproving; scathing; criticizing |
| **CRUEL** | causing pain and suffering; unkind; spiteful; severe |
| **CURIOUS** | wanting to find out more; inquisitive; questioning |
| **CYNICAL** | scornful of motives/virtues of others; mocking; sneering |
| **DEFENSIVE** | defending a position; shielding; guarding; watchful |
| **DEFIANT** | obstinate; argumentative; defiant; contentious |
| **DEMEANING** | disrespectful; undignified |
| **DEPRESSING** | sad, melancholic; discouraging; pessimistic |
| **DERISIVE** | snide; sarcastic; mocking; dismissive; scornful |
| **DETACHED** | aloof; objective; unfeeling; distant |
| **DIGNIFIED** | serious; respectful; formal; proper |
| **DIPLOMATIC** | tactful; subtle; sensitive; thoughtful |
| **DISAPPROVING** | displeased; critical; condemnatory |
| **DISHEARTENING** | discouraging; demoralising; undermining; depressing |
| **DISPARAGING** | dismissive; critical; scornful |
| **DIRECT** | straightforward; honest |
| **DISAPPOINTED** | discouraged; unhappy because something has gone wrong |
| **DISPASSIONATE** | impartial; indifferent; unsentimental; cold; unsympathetic |
| **DISTRESSING** | heart-breaking; sad; troubling |
| **DOCILE** | compliant; submissive; deferential; accommodating |
| **EARNEST** | showing deep sincerity or feeling; serious |
| **EGOTISTICAL** | self-absorbed; selfish; conceited; boastful |
| **EMPATHETIC** | understanding; kind; sensitive |
| **ENCOURAGING** | optimistic; supportive |
| **ENTHUSIASTIC** | excited; energetic |
| **EVASIVE** | ambiguous; cryptic; unclear |
| **EXCITED** | emotionally aroused; stirred |
| **FACETIOUS** | Not serious; flippant, sarcastic/humorous |
| **FARCICAL** | ludicrous; absurd; mocking; humorous and highly improbable |
| **FLIPPANT** | superficial; glib; shallow; thoughtless; frivolous |
| **FORCEFUL** | powerful; energetic; confident; assertive |
| **FORMAL** | respectful; stilted; factual; following accepted styles/rules |
| **FRANK** | honest; direct; plain; matter-of-fact |
| **FRUSTRATED** | annoyed; discouraged |
| **GENTLE** | kind; considerate; mild; soft |
| **GHOULISH** | delighting in the revolting or the loathsome |
| **GRIM** | serious; gloomy; depressing; lacking humour;macabre |
| **GULLIBLE** | naïve; innocent; ignorant |
| **HARD** | unfeeling; hard-hearted; unyielding |
| **HUMBLE** | deferential; modest |
| **HUMOROUS** | amusing; entertaining; playful |
| **HYPERCRITICAL** | unreasonably critical; hair splitting; nitpicking |
| **IMPARTIAL** | unbiased; neutral; objective |
| **IMPASSIONED** | filled with emotion; ardent |
| **IMPLORING** | pleading; begging |
| **IMPRESSIONABLE** | trusting; child-like |
| **INANE** | silly; foolish; stupid; nonsensical |
| **INCENSED** | enraged |
| **INCREDULOUS** | disbelieving; unconvinced; questioning; suspicious |
| **INDIGNANT** | annoyed; angry; dissatisfied |
| **INFORMATIVE** | instructive; factual; educational |
| **INSPIRATIONAL** | encouraging; reassuring |
| **INTENSE** | earnest; passionate; concentrated; deeply felt |
| **INTIMATE** | familiar; informal; confidential; confessional |
| **IRONIC** | the opposite of what is meant |
| **IRREVERENT** | lacking respect for things that are generally taken seriously |
| **JADED** | bored; having had too much of the same thing; lack enthusiasm |
| **JOYFUL** | positive; optimistic; cheerful; elated |
| **JUDGMENTAL** | critical; finding fault; disparaging |
| **LAUDATORY** | praising; recommending |
| **LIGHT-HEARTED** | carefree; relaxed; chatty; humorous |
| **LOVING** | affectionate; showing intense, deep concern |
| **MACABRE** | gruesome; horrifying; frightening |
| **MALICIOUS** | desiring to harm others or to see others suffer; ill-willed; spiteful |
| **MEAN-SPIRITED** | inconsiderate; unsympathetic |
| **MOCKING** | scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone |
| **MOURNING** | grieving; lamenting; woeful |
| **NAÏVE** | innocent; unsophisticated; immature |
| **NARCISSISTIC** | self-admiring; selfish; boastful; self-pitying |
| **NASTY** | unpleasant; unkind; disagreeable; abusive |
| **NEGATIVE** | unhappy, pessimistic |
| **NOSTALGIC** | thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past |
| **OBJECTIVE** | without prejudice; without discrimination; fair; based on fact |
| **OBSEQUIOUS** | overly obedient and/or submissive; fawning; grovelling |
| **OPTIMISTIC** | hopeful; cheerful |
| **OUTRAGED** | angered and resentful; furious; extremely angered |
| **OUTSPOKEN** | frank; candid; spoken without reserve |
| **PATHETIC** | expressing pity, sympathy, tenderness |
| **PATRONISING** | condescending; scornful; pompous |
| **PENSIVE** | reflective; introspective; philosophical; contemplative |
| **PERSUASIVE** | convincing; eloquent; influential; plausible |
| **PESSIMISTIC** | seeing the negative side of things |
| **PHILOSOPHICAL** | theoretical; analytical; rational; logical |
| **PLAYFUL** | full of fun and good spirits; humorous; jesting |
| **PRAGMATIC** | realistic; sensible |
| **PRETENTIOUS** | affected; artificial; grandiose; rhetorical; flashy |
| **REGRETFUL** | apologetic; remorseful |
| **RESENTFUL** | aggrieved; offended; displeased; bitter |
| **RESIGNED** | accepting; unhappy |
| **RESTRAINED** | controlled; quiet; unemotional |
| **REVERENT** | showing deep respect and esteem |
| **RIGHTEOUS** | morally right and just; guiltless; pious; god-fearing |
| **SATIRICAL** | making fun to show a weakness; ridiculing; derisive |
| **SARCASTIC** | scornful; mocking; ridiculing |
| **SCATHING** | critical; stinging; unsparing; harsh |
| **SCORNFUL** | expressing contempt or derision; scathing; dismissive |
| **SENSATIONALISTIC** | provocative; inaccurate; distasteful |
| **SENTIMENTAL** | thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past |
| **SINCERE** | honest; truthful; earnest |
| **SCEPTICAL** | disbelieving; unconvinced; doubting |
| **SOLEMN** | not funny; in earnest; serious |
| **SUBJECTIVE** | prejudiced; biased |
| **SUBMISSIVE** | compliant; passive; accommodating; obedient |
| **SULKING** | bad-tempered; grumpy; resentful; sullen |
| **SYMPATHETIC** | compassionate; understanding of how someone feels |
| **THOUGHTFUL** | reflective; serious; absorbed |
| **TOLERANT** | open-minded; charitable; patient; sympathetic; lenient |
| **TRAGIC** | disastrous; calamitous |
| **UNASSUMING** | modest; self-effacing; restrained |
| **UNEASY** | worried; uncomfortable; edgy; nervous |
| **URGENT** | insistent; saying something must be done soon |
| **VINDICTIVE** | vengeful; spiteful; bitter; unforgiving |
| **VIRTUOUS** | lawful; righteous; moral; upstanding |
| **WHIMSICAL** | quaint; playful; mischievous; offbeat |
| **WITTY** | clever; quick-witted; entertaining |
| **WONDER** | awe-struck; admiring; fascinating |
| **WORLD-WEARY** | bored; cynical; tired |
| **WORRIED** | anxious; stressed; fearful |
| **WRETCHED** | miserable; despairing; sorrowful; distressed |