

## AP English Literature and Language Tone Vocabulary for Analysis and Writing

**Tone** is more than merely an author's attitude toward his or her subject, audience, and/or characters; it is the stylistic means by which an author conveys his or her attitude(s) in a text. Tone is an integral part of a text's meaning because it delivers the connotative impact of language and thus controls the reader's response, which is essential to fully experiencing language and literature. 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 and build a vocabulary to describe tone precisely.

### Tonal Scale of Author/Speaker's Attitude

<i>admiration</i>	<i>love</i>	<i>happiness</i>	<i>calm</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>neutrality</i>	<i>irony</i>	<i>concern</i>	<i>sadness</i>	<i>anger</i>	<i>hatred</i>
adoring amazed appreciative approving awed celebratory complimentary deferential devout doting effusive elegiac esteeming exalting extolling fawning flattering glorifying groveling honoring humbled idolatrous laudatory loyal obsequious pious respectful reverent submissive sycophantic venerating worshipful	affectionate ardent besotted compassionate enamored enchanted enthralled fervent fond genial impassioned infatuated intimate lustful narcissistic nostalgic passionate Platonic Rapturous rhapsodic romantic sentimental smitten superficial supportive sympathetic tender tolerant vehement whimsical zealous	blissful blithesome boisterous buoyant capricious carefree cheerful comfortable contented delighted ebullient ecstatic elated euphoric exuberant exultant gay gleeful jaunty jocose jovial joyful jubilant merry mirthful pleased satisfied thrilled triumphant	acquiescent content composed conciliatory diplomatic equable docile gentle halcyon imperturbable indolent mellow mild passive peaceful placid satisfied sedate serene stagnant static submissive torpid tranquil undisturbed unflustered unperturbed unruffled untroubled	alacritous anticipatory assured bold confident courageous dauntless delusional eager expectant fanciful idealistic impatient intrepid keen naïve optimistic Pollyannaish plucky propitious Quixotic resolute rose-colored sanguine trusting wistful yearning	abrupt ambiguous ambivalent analytical apathetic austere authoritative candid clinical contemplative detached didactic earnest erudite esoteric factual formal forthright frank impartial incredulous informative inquisitive instructive learned meticulous objective pragmatic reflective restrained reticent scholarly serious severe sincere Spartan stoical straightforward terse unpretentious	absurd acerbic amused bantering bemused biting caustic clever critical cynical derisive facetious flippant humorous icy impish insolent irreverent jeering mischievous mocking mordant paradoxical patronizing playful sarcastic sardonic satirical scathing scoffing scornful smirking sneering taunting teasing witty wry	agitated alarmed angst-ridden anguished anxious appalled apprehensive averse daunted disconcerted dismayed disquieted distressed dreading dubious fearful flustered foreboding horrified intimidated ominous pessimistic portentous spooky startled terrified timid timorous trepid troubled uneasy unsettled urgent	ashamed bleak chagrined dejected depressed despairing despondent disconsolate dismal doleful elegiac forlorn funereal gloomy grave grievous hopeless lamenting lugubrious melancholic miserable morose pitiful regretful remorseful rueful solemn somber sorrowful sullen woeful	accusatory admonishing aggravated antipathetic bellicose belligerent bristling choleric consternated embittered enraged exasperated frustrated furious galled incendiary incensed indignant insolent irascible irate irritated judgmental livid miffed outraged perturbed petulant riled strident truculent upbraiding vexed vitriolic wrathful	abhorrent adversarial acrimonious arrogant averse bitter condemnatory condescending confrontational contemptuous contentious contrary defiant despising detesting disdainful disgusted hostile inflammatory jealous loathing malevolent malicious misanthropic misogynistic piqued pretentious rancorous reactionary repugnant repulsed resentful sinister spiteful threatening vengeful vindictive