

Mood and Tone Reference Sheet

Tone Words

Neutral

A neutral tone word is a word that doesn't show strong feelings or opinions. It simply describes something in a factual way, without sounding positive or negative. For example, saying "the sky is blue" is neutral, while "the beautiful blue sky" shows a positive feeling.

Objective Impartial Unbiased Reserved	Matter-of-fact Pragmatic Neutral Informative	Analytical Detached Calm Reasoned	Concise Factual Clear Nonchalant
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Positive

Positive tone words express good feelings or ideas. They often make things sound happy, encouraging, or uplifting. For example, words like "joyful," "amazing," or "successful" all have a positive tone because they convey good emotions or qualities.

Joyful Optimistic Enthusiastic Grateful Hopeful	Inspiring Confident Calm Content Blissful	Uplifting Wholesome Playful Amused Cheerful	Affectionate Exuberant Triumphant Invigorating Appreciative
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Negative

Negative tone words express bad feelings or ideas. They can make things sound unhappy, critical, or discouraging. For example, words like "terrible," "sad," or "failed" have a negative tone because they convey unpleasant emotions or qualities.

Pessimistic Cynical Bitter Hostile Condescending	Sarcastic Resentful Melancholic Aggravated Frustrated	Disheartened Discontent Accusatory Dismissive Regretful	Defeated Dismal Critical Depressing Anxious
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Mood Words

Happy—Joyful

Jubilant Delighted Ecstatic Gleeful	Elated Playful Eager Blissful	Radiant Cheerful Content Lighthearted	Exuberant Uplifting Carefree Enthusiastic
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Humor

Witty Playful	Comical Silly	Whimsical Amused	Entertained Lighthearted
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Sorrowful—Sad

Melancholic Heartbroken Sorrowful Somber	Forlorn Mournful Anguished Regretful	Despondent Gloomy Depressed Disheartened	Lonely Dreary Hopeless Devastated
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Upset—Angry

Furious Annoyed Frustrated Enraged	Infuriated Agitated Hostile Wrathful	Seething Bitter Miserable Turbulent	Exasperated Resentful Outraged Chaotic
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Difference Between Mood and Tone

	Tone	Mood
Definition	an author/speaker's attitude toward a topic or an audience, which is often conveyed through word choice and/or literary devices	the emotion or feeling that a text creates for the reader, which is often conveyed through word choice and/or literary devices
Purpose	to convey the author or speaker's perspective and intentions	to evoke specific feelings or emotions in the reader
Example	sarcastic, formal, informal, serious, humorous	joyful, eerie, suspenseful, melancholic, peaceful
Analyze the Text	analyzed through the author's choice of words, style, and detail	felt through the overall atmosphere and the reader's response