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

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	Inspiring	Uplifting	Affectionate
Optimistic	Confident	Wholesome	Exuberant
Enthusiastic	Calm	Playful	Triumphant
Grateful	Content	Amused	Invigorating
Hopeful	Blissful	Cheerful	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	Sarcastic	Disheartened	Defeated
Cynical	Resentful	Discontent	Dismal
Bitter	Melancholic	Accusatory	Critical
Hostile	Aggravated	Dismissive	Depressing
Condescending	Frustrated	Regretful	Anxious

Mood Words

Happy—Joyful

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

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Humor

Witty	Comical	Whimsical	Entertained
Playful	Silly	Amused	Lighthearted

Sorrowful—Sad

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

Upset—Angry

Furious	Infuriated	Seething	Exasperated
Annoyed	Agitated	Bitter	Resentful
Frustrated	Hostile	Miserable	Outraged
Enraged	Wrathful	Turbulent	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

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