Tone Lists

“The Most Dangerous Game” - Tone Word List

1. Ambiguous - open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations; of doubtful or uncertain nature

2. Condescending – showing or implying that one is conscious of descending from a superior position, rank, or dignity

3. Contemplative – characterized by thoughtful observation, full consideration, or reflection

4. Flippant - frivolously disrespectful, shallow, or lacking in seriousness

5. Foreboding - a strong inner feeling or notion of a future misfortune or evil

6. Gloomy – (1) sad, dejected, or melancholy; (2) hopeless or despairing; pessimistic

7. Grave - serious or solemn; sober

8. Mocking - treating with ridicule, contempt, or derision

9. Ominous - portending evil or harm; foreboding; threatening

10. Pessimistic - tending to expect only bad outcomes; gloomy; joyless; unhopeful

11. Scornful - derisive; contemptuous; disrespectful

12. Self-assured – confident in one’s own judgment, ability, or power

13. Sinister - evil or seemingly evil; indicating lurking danger or harm

14. Speculative - based on conjecture, guesses or ideas about what might happen or be true rather than on facts

15. Tense - in a state of mental or nervous strain; high-strung

16. Threatening - causing alarm, as by being imminent; ominous; sinister

17. Zealous - ardently active, devoted, or diligent; marked by fervent partisanship for a person, a cause, or an ideal

Tone Vocabulary List

Positive Tone/Attitude Words

Amiable	Complimentary	Enthusiastic	Jubilant	Reverent
Amused	Confident	Excited	Lighthearted	Romantic
Appreciative	Consoling	Exuberant	Loving	Soothing
Authoritative	Content	Fanciful	Optimistic	Surprised
Benevolent	Dreamy	Friendly	Passionate	Sweet
Brave	Ecstatic	Happy	Peaceful	Sympathetic
Calm	Elated	Hopeful	Playful	Vibrant
Cheerful	Elevated	Impassioned	Pleasant	Whimsical
Cheery	Encouraging	Jovial	Proud	
Compassionate	Energetic	Joyful	Relaxed	

Negative Tone/Attitude Words

Accusing	Brash	Disgruntled	Insulting	Surly
Aggravated	Childish	Disgusted	Irritated	Testy
Agitated	Choleric	Disinterested	Manipulative	Threatening
Angry	Coarse	Facetious	Obnoxious	Tired
Apathetic	Cold	Furious	Outraged	Uninterested
Arrogant	Condemnatory	Harsh	Passive	Wrathful
Artificial	Condescending	Hateful	Quarrelsome	
Audacious	Contradictory	Haughty	Shameful	
Belligerent	Critical	Hurtful	Smooth	
Bitter	Desperate	Indignant	Snooty	
Boring	Disappointed	Inflammatory	Superficial	

Humor-Irony-Sarcasm Tone/Attitude Words

Amused	Cynical	Ironic	Pompous	Scornful
Bantering	Disdainful	Irreverent	Quizzical	Sharp
Bitter	Droll	Joking	Ribald	Silly
Caustic	Facetious	Malicious	Ridiculing	Taunting
Comical	Flippant	Mock-heroic	Sad	Teasing
Condescending	Giddy	Mocking	Sarcastic	Whimsical
Contemptuous	Humorous	Mock-serious	Sardonic	Wry
Critical	Insolent	Patronizing	Satiric	

Sorrow-Fear-Worry Tone/Attitude Words

Aggravated	Despairing	Horrific	Paranoid	Sober
Agitated	Disturbed	Horror	Pessimistic	Solemn
Anxious	Embarrassed	Melancholy	Pitiful	Somber
Apologetic	Fearful	Miserable	Poignant	Staid
Apprehensive	Foreboding	Morose	Regretful	Upset
Concerned	Gloomy	Mournful	Remorseful	
Confused	Grave	Nervous	Resigned	
Dejected	Hollow	Numb	Sad	
Depressed	Hopeless	Ominous	Serious	

Neutral Tone/Attitude Words

Admonitory	Dramatic	Intimae	Questioning
Allusive	Earnest	Judgmental	Reflective
Apathetic	Expectant	Learned	Reminiscent
Authoritative	Factual	Loud	Resigned
Baffled	Fervent	Lyrical	Restrained
Callous	Formal	Matter-of-fact	Seductive
Candid	Forthright	Meditative	Sentimental
Ceremonial	Frivolous	Nostalgic	Serious
Clinical	Haughty	Objective	Shocking
Consoling	Histrionic	Obsequious	Sincere
Contemplative	Humble	Patriotic	Unemotional
Conventional	Incredulous	Persuasive	Urgent
Detached	Informative	Pleading	Vexed
Didactic	Inquisitive	Pretentious	Wistful
Disbelieving	Instructive	Provocative	Zealous