

Key Terms in Questions on Attitude and Tone

Aloof	standoffish; remote in attitude
Ambivalent	of two minds; unable to decide
Brusque	abrupt; curt to the point of rudeness
Cautionary	conveying a warning
Compassionate	sympathetic; showing pity
Condescension	patronizing behavior
Cynical	distrustful of the motives of others; mocking
Defensive	self-justifying; constantly protecting oneself from criticism
Detachment	aloofness; lack of involvement; indifference
Didactic	moralizing; inclined to lecture excessively
Disdain	scorn; contempt; arrogance
Disparaging	belittling; disapproving
Dispassionate	unbiased; objective; unemotional; calm
Esteem	Respect; admiration
Flippant	frivolously disrespectful; lacking proper seriousness
Grudging	reluctant; unwilling
Hypocritical	pretending to have virtues or feelings one lacks; insincere; phony
Indifference	lack of concern; lack of interest
Ironic	tongue in cheek; sarcastic; contrary to what was expected
Judicious	sensible; showing good judgement; prudent; wise
Naïve	innocent; unsophisticated
Nostalgia	sentimental yearning for the past; homesickness
Objective (adj.)	impartial; unbiased; neutral
Optimism	hopefulness; cheerful confidence
Pedantic	narrowly focused on academic trivia; excessive bookish
Pessimism	negativity; lack of hopefulness; gloom
Pomposity	self-importance; excessive self-esteem
Prosaic	commonplace; pedestrian; ordinary
Resigned (adj.)	submissive; passively accepting the inevitable
Sarcasm	cutting remarks; stinging rebuke; scorn
Satirical	mocking; exposing folly to ridicule
Skeptical	disbelieving; doubtful; unconvinced
Trite	stale; clichéd, overused
Whimsical	fanciful; capricious; unpredictable