**Guidelines for RC Tones**

Very often, in entrance exams like CAT, there are questions in Reading Comprehension based on the "style" of the passage. Such questions can appear in various forms. Some of the forms of such questions are:

* "Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?"
* "The tone of the passage is….... "
* "The author's approach/tone/style of writing in this passage can be termed/described as....."

Such questions should not be attempted unless you have read the entire passage (unlike certain other categories of questions which can be attempted without reading the entire passage). Once you read the entire passage ask yourself what the basic approach/style of the author is (without looking at the answer choices). Then locate the answer choices and select the one which comes closest to what you thought of in you mind.

For your understanding a list of words that you should be familiar to answer questions on "tone" is given below. Please make sure that you understand meanings of the words given in the following table.

**Possible Tones and Meanings**

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| **Possible Tone** | **Meaning of The Word** |
| Acerbic | Harsh/ severe; bitter |
| Aggressive | Forceful; tending towards unprovoked offensiveness |
| Angry/indignant | - |
| Apathetic | Emotionless; not interested/ concerned; indifferent; unresponsive |
| Apologetic | Expressing remorse, regret, sorrow for having failed, injured, insulted or wronged another |
| Belligerent | Aggressively hostile; bellicose |
| Biased | Favouring one thing/person/group over another for personal reasons. |
| Caustic | Biting; acerbic |
| Commiserating | Feeling/ expressing sorrow for; empathizing with; pity |
| Condescending | Patronizing; showing/implying patronising descent from dignity/ superiority |
| Contemptuous | Expressing contempt/ disdain |
| Cynical | displaying a belief that people are always self-seeking and never altruistic in their actions |
| Derisive | Unkind and displaying contempt |
| Disparaging | Speak slightingly; depreciating; belittling |
| Dogmatic | Asserting opinions in an arrogant manner; imperious; dictatorial |
| Emotional | Easily affected by feelings actuated by experiencing love, hate, fear and the like |
| Ethical | Dealing with principles of morality; honest; righteous |
| Euphemistic | Substitution of mild, indirect or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh or blunt |
| Grandiose | More complicated/ elaborated than necessary; pompous |
| Humanistic | Evincing keen interest in human affairs, nature, welfare, values |
| Humourous | Funny and amusing |
| Introspective | Consider one's own internal state of feelings |
| Incendiary | Causing strong feelings |
| Laudatory | Praising; extolling; applauding |
| Motivating | Impelling; inciting |
| Obsequious | Fawning; showing servile complaisance; flattering; deferent |
| Pedestrian | Lacking vitality, imagination, distinction |
| Populist | Egalitarian; pertaining to the characteristics of common people/ working class |
| Provocative | Inciting; stimulating; irritating; vexing |
| Romantic | Fanciful; impractical; unrealistic; extravagant; exaggerated |
| Sarcastic | Harsh, bitter derision; taunting; sneering; cutting remarks |
| Satirical | Ironical; taunting; human folly held up to scorn/ derision/ ridicule |
| Speculative | Theoretical rather than practical; thoughtful; reflective; hypothetical |
| Technical | Using terminology or treating subject matter in a manner peculiar to a particular field, as a writer or a book |
| Vitriolic | Full of anger and hatred |
| Vituperative | Cruel and angry criticism |