

Abstract	theoretical without reference to specifics
Absurd	contrary to logic, but sometimes artistically viable
Accusatory	charging of wrong doing
Acerbic	harsh/ severe; bitter
Affected	assuming a false manner or attitude to impress others
Aggressive	forceful; tending towards unprovoked offensiveness, angry/indignant
Ambiguous	open to more than one interpretation/ doubtful or uncertain
Amused/ Amusing	agreeable, pleasing, entertaining, cause pleasure
Analytical	inclined to examine things by studying their contents or parts
Anecdotal	involving short narratives of interesting events
Apathetic	emotionless; not interested/ concerned; indifferent; unresponsive
Apologetic	expressing remorse, regret, sorrow for having failed, injured, insulted or wronged another
Apprehensive	anxious, fearful, uneasy about the future
Archaic	in the style of an earlier period
Argumentative	type of discourse in which one debates a topic in a logical way
Arrogant	having of displaying a sense of overbearing self-worth or importance
Audacious	fearless, often recklessly daring, bold
Awe	solemn wonder
Bantering	good-humored, playful
Baroque	a grand and exuberantly ornamental style
Belligerent	aggressively hostile; bellicose
Biased	favoring one thing/person/group over another for personal reasons.
Bizarre	unusually strange or odd
Bland	non-disturbing, unemotional, uninteresting
Bombastic	pretentious and pompous
Breezy	quick-paced, but sometimes superficial
Callous	unfeeling; insensitive to feelings of others
Candid	unprejudiced, impartial, open & sincere
Caustic	intense use of sarcasm; stinging; biting; acerbic
Childish	immature (when applied to adults or writing)
Choleric	hot-tempered, easily angered

Cinematic	having the qualities of a motion picture
Classical	formal, enduring, and standard, adhering to certain traditional methods
Classification	organization wherein the writer explains the relationships between terms or concepts
Colloquial	characteristic or ordinary and informal conversation
Comic	humorous, light, funny (there are many levels)
Commiserating	feeling/ expressing sorrow for; empathizing with; pity
Condescending	patronizing; showing/implying patronizing descent from dignity/ superiority
Confessional	characterized by personal admissions of faults
Confused	unable to think with clarity or act with intelligence
Contemplative	studying, thinking, reflecting on an issue
Contemptuous	expressing contempt/ disdain ; showing or feeling that something is worthless or lacks respect
Contented	satisfied with things the way they are.
Conventional	lacking spontaneity, originality and individuality
Convolutd	very complicated or involved (as in the case of sentences with many qualifiers, phrases, and clauses)
Critical	finding fault
Cynical	displaying a belief that people are always self-seeking and never altruistic in their actions
Decadent	marked by a decay in morals, values, and artistic standards
Depressing	sad, gloomy (without any of the redeeming qualities of true tragedy)
Derisive	unkind and displaying contempt ; ridiculing, mocking
Detached	separated, disconnected, aloof or impartial
Dialect	the version of a language spoken by people of a particular region or social group.
Dialogue	the conversation of two or more people as represented in writing.
Diatribes	violently bitter verbal attack
Diction	the choice of words used in a literary work
Didactic	author attempts to educate or instruct the reader
Diffident	reserved in manner; timid

Digression	a portion of a writing that interrupts/ pauses the progress of the main plot.
Discursive	moving pointlessly from one subject to another; rambling
Disdainful	scornful
Disparaging	speak slightingly; depreciating; belittling
Dogmatic	asserting opinions in an arrogant manner; imperious; dictatorial
Earnest	intense, a sincere state of mind
Earthy	realistic, rustic coarse, unrefined, instinctive, animalize
Effeminate	soft, delicate, unmanly
Elegiac	expressing sorrow for that which is irrecoverably past
Emotional	much given to strong feelings
Epigraph	the use of a quotation at the beginning or a work that hints at its theme.
Erudite	learned, polished, scholarly
Ethical	dealing with principles of morality; honest; righteous
Eulogistic	involving formal praise in speech or writing, usually in honor of someone dead
Euphemistic	substitution of mild, indirect or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh or blunt
Evocative	having the ability to call forth memories or other responses
Expository	type of discourse in which one explains or describes
Expressionistic	stressing the subjective and symbolic is art and literature
Facetious	amusing, but light, unserious, frivolous
Factual	real, provides facts
Fanciful	using the imagination
Farcical	humorous but in a light way, comedy with high exaggeration
Fatalistic	Defeatist, believing that everything that happens is pre-destined
Flamboyant	conspicuously bold or colorful
Flashback	a way of presenting scenes or incidents that took place before the opening scene.
Flippant	disrespectful levity or casualness, pert.
Forthright	directly frank without hesitation
Gloomy	darkness, sadness, rejection
Grandiose	more complicated/ elaborated than necessary; pompous
Haughty	proud and vain to the point of arrogance
Horrific	terrifying
Humanistic	evinced keen interest in human affairs, nature, welfare, values

Humorous	funny and amusing
Hyperbole	a bold overstatement or extravagant exaggeration used either for serious or comic effect.
Idiomatic	peculiar to or characteristic of a given language
Illustration	organization wherein the topic sentence is stated and then followed by the details
Imagery	language that evokes sensation as opposed to an abstract idea.
Impartial	unprejudiced, not biased
Incendiary	causing strong feelings
Indignant	marked by anger; aroused by justice
Inference	a conclusion the reader can draw based upon details presented by the author.
Insolent	presumptuous and insulting in manner or speech, arrogant, disrespectful, rude, impertinent
Intimate	very familiar
Introspective	consider one's own internal state of feelings
Invective	direct denunciation or name-calling.
Irate	extremely angry, enraged
Irony	in its broadest sense, the incongruity or diff between reality and appearance
Irreverent	showing disrespect for things that are usually respected or revered
Jargon	the special language of a profession or group
Jovial	happy, jolly, full of good humor
Judgmental	authoritative and often having critical opinions
Juxtaposition	the side by side comparison of two or more object
Laudatory	praising; extolling; applauding
Lyrical	expressing a poet's inner feelings; emotional; full of images; song-like
Malapropism	the comic substitution of one word for another similar in sound but different in meaning
Malicious	purposely hurtful
Matter Of Fact	accepting of conditions; not fanciful or emotional
Metaphorical	Figurative/symbolic
Mocking	treating with contempt or ridicule
Morose	gloomy, sullen, sourly, despondent
Motivating	impelling; inciting
Mournful	sorrowful, sadness, melancholy
Mundane	ordinary or common, as in everyday matters ("his mind was filled with mundane matters")

Naturalistic	tending to present things in art and literature as they appear in nature or actuality
Nostalgic	inclined to long for or dwell on things of the past; sentimental
Objective	an unbiased view - able to leave personal judgments aside
Obsequious	fawning; showing servile complaisance; flattering; deferent ; polite and obedient in order to gain something
Ominous	menacing, threatening
Optimistic	hopeful, cheerful
Parody	a satirical imitation of something serious, such as a comic takeoff of Romeo and Juliet
Patronizing	air of condescension; haughty; looking down upon
Pedantic	overly concerned with minute details or formalisms,
Pedestrian	lacking vitality, imagination, distinction
Personification	the attribute of human qualities to inanimate objects or abstract ideas.
Persuasive	intended or having the power to induce action or belief
Pessimistic	seeing the worst side of things
Philosophical	interested in the study of basic truths of existence and reality
Picturesque	strikingly expressive or vivid
Poetical	having the qualities of poetry, such as pleasing rhythms or images
Poignant	affecting or moving the emotions
Pompous	displaying one's importance in an exaggerated way; sometimes this quality is found in comic characters
Provincial	limited in perspective; narrow and self centered
Provocative	inciting; stimulating; irritating; vexing
Prurient	preoccupied with lewd and lustful thoughts
Puritanical	strict or severe in matters of morality
Quizzical	odd, eccentric, amusing
Realistic	inclined to represent things as they really are
Reflective	illustrating innermost thoughts and emotions
Regretful	sorrowful because of what is lost, gone, or done
Restrained	held-back, deprived, checked
Reverent	treating a subject with honor and respect
Ribald	offensive in speech or gesture
Ridiculing	slightly contemptuous banter; making fun of

Romantic	fanciful; impractical; unrealistic; extravagant; exaggerated
Sanguineous	optimistic, cheerful
Sarcasm	harsh cutting personal remarks not necessarily ironic
Sarcastic	harsh, bitter derision; taunting; sneering; cutting remarks
Sardonic	scornfully and bitterly sarcastic
Satirical	ironical; taunting; human folly held up to scorn/ derision/ ridicule ; ridiculing to show weakness in order to make a point or to teach
Sentimental	resulting from or colored by emotion rather than reason or realism
Simile	a comparison using "like" or "as."
Sincere	without deceit or pretense, genuine
Skeptical	doubtful, apprehensive in agreement
Solemn	deeply earnest, tending towards sad reflection
Speculative	theoretical rather than practical; thoughtful; reflective; hypothetical
Subjective	relying on one's own inner impressions, as opposed to being objective
Surrealistic	stressing imagery and the subconscious and sometimes distorting ordinary ideas in order to arrive at artistic truths
Technical	using terminology or treating subject matter in a manner peculiar to a particular field, as a writer or a book
Terse	effectively concise, brief
Timorous	funny, witty
Tone	the reflection in a work of the author's attitude toward his or her subject
Trite	lacking power to evoke interest through overuse or repetition; hackneyed
Turgid	excessively ornate or complex in style or language; grandiloquent
Urbane	sophisticated, socially polished
Veneration	admiration, wonder
Vexed	distressed, annoyed, perplexed
Victorian	prudish, stuffy, and puritanical (qualities associated with queen victoria's reign)
Vitriolic	full of anger and hatred
Vituperative	cruel and angry criticism
Whimsical	odd, strange, fantastic
Wry	devious in course or purpose; misdirected