***Identifying the Tone***

**Tone** is the author’s attitude toward the writing and the readers. A work of writing can have more than one **tone**. **Tone** is set by the setting, choice of vocabulary and other details. It is the way feelings are expressed by the writer. **Tone** is the writer/speaker/character’s feelings and attitude to what he talks about or experience. **Tone** is revealed through language by the writer’s use of diction (words) and ideas. **Tone** is the writer’s attitude towards the subject or audience. It states his positive and negative feelings about the subject.

**Attitude** is the writer’s position towards a particular topic. The writer could be: for, against or neutral towards the topic. The **style** is the way the writer expresses his ideas in words; the **style** of the writer is known through the use of:

1. Words: difficult/simple/easy vocabulary; jargons; scientific words, descriptive words
2. Figures of speech
3. Types of sentences: simple, direct sentences; compound, complex, compound-complex sentences
4. Is the writer presenting his/her ideas directly or indirectly?

**The positive Tone words:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| hopeful | sympathetic | energetic | humorous | defending | encouraging | optimistic |
| confident | passionate | content | caring | supportive | witty | respectful |
| proud | pleased | calm | thoughtful | happy/joyful | determined | lively |
| persuading | amused | dreamy | formal | excited | certain | admiring |

**The negative Tone words:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sad/sorrowful | hesitant | depressed | self-pitying | angry | hopeless | worried |
| disappointed | hostile | ironic | critic | threatening | hesitant | aggressive |
| melancholic | suspicious | sarcastic | scornful | horrifying | disapproving | annoyed |
| anxious | apathetic | pessimistic | discouraging | gloomy | serious | insensitive |

**Objective Tone:** The writer’s purpose is to present information in a neutral and factual manner.

**Subjective Tone:** A subjective voice tone is when someone addresses his point in a passionate and dominating manner; he thinks he is 100% accurate when discussing a point.

**Ironical Tone:** sarcastic- cynical- critical

***Application***

***Identify the tone of the following statements*:**

1. Tony is an excellent manager- the best one I’ve ever had. …………………………………………………………………………
2. I know Tony’s daughter has been sick. Naturally, it’s hard for him to concentrate on work right now. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
3. I’d rather stay here and wait, than go into that dark room. …………………………………………………………………………
4. The sun is shining brightly in the meadow; let’s go out and play! …………………………………………………………………
5. I called my friend at their house, her brother said she’s not at home, but I heard her come on the line. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
6. “I just shot my husband five times in the chest with this 375 Magnum.” ………………………………………………………
7. “How could I ever have killed him? I just can’t believe I did that!” ………………………………………………………………
8. We’re contacting you today about the Special Olympics annual fund drive. You have been kind enough to support us generously in the past, and we’d like to ask for your help again, as we send our athletes with special needs to compete at the national level. Please fill out the form below and return it in the enclosed envelope with your donation. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
9. We received your request for a refund for your recent purchase of a telescope for your son. Please accept our sincere apologies that the product did not function as advertised. We will process the refund in as timely a manner as possible. In the meantime, if we can help you in any other way, please ask. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
10. Often you feel you’ve done nothing when you’ve actually done a lot. That’s because what you did do seemed beneath notice- it was so small that it didn’t count. But it did- just as each stitch counts toward a finished dress, each brick or nail toward a house you can live in, each mistake toward knowing how to do things right. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
11. A vaccine is a preparation of killed or weakened germs that is injected under the skin and causes the blood to produce antibodies against the disease. Effective vaccines, for instance, have been developed for small pox, rabies and polio. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
12. We have come together this afternoon to mourn the deaths of sixteen miners- our friends and neighbors- who were trapped by fire yesterday, deep below the earth. They lived bravely and they died too soon, leaving behind grieving wives and bewildered children. We bid them a final farewell. …………………………………
13. Why do these things always happen to me? Brad wondered. First, I forget an important meeting, and nobody reminds me until it’s over. Then my boss dumps a big project on my desk and wants it done by yesterday. And to top everything off, I leave my wallet on the bus. ……………………………………………………………
14. Each year in the middle of February, when slush is underfoot and the sky is a depressing gray, I begin dreaming of warm beaches, tropical fruits and sunsets. If only I could save enough for a winter vacation! Maybe next year, I’ll win the lottery. Meanwhile, I’ll read travel brochures and sigh. ……………………………………
15. We are seriously failing our nation’s teenagers when it comes to education concerning AIDS. Somehow, we must convince them, without delay, that this terrible illness can happen to them, not just too isolated groups in big cities. Let’s give them the information they need to protect themselves- before it’s too late. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
16. What’s the matter with those idiots in the city council? First, they pass new parking regulations saying we can‘t park our cars in front of our own houses without a special permit. Now, they’ve gone and slapped another tax on gas purchase- just to widen a road that’s already wide enough. Anyway, nobody enjoys the traffic delays resulting from road construction. The sooner we vote those incompetents out, the better off we’ll all be. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
17. Sure, litterbugs account for a lot of the trash blowing around our city’s streets, but there are other villains too. What about people who set out their trash days ahead of their scheduled trash pickup time? Worse yet are the stores that tile boxes in back alleys, and restaurants whose mounds of green- bagged trash draw rodents and roaches. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
18. Health Minister Hassan Hamad has warned the virus was spreading and asked the Lebanese to take precautions without panicking. Lebanon’s crippling financial crisis could pose a threat to managing its relatively limited coronavirus outbreak that has been kept in check but is expected to spread, health officials say. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………