



Video Game Metadata Schema: Controlled Vocabulary for MOOD

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Game Metadata Research (GAMER) Group
and Seattle Interactive Media Museum

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<https://github.com/uwgamergroup/vocabulary-mood>

SN: Scope note

USE: Preferred term (*See*)

USE FOR: Equivalent term, lead-in term

BT: Broader term

NT: Narrower term

RT: Related term (*See also*)

Instruction: Choose up to three moods that describe the game from the terms in the CV.

Term	Information
Adventurous	SN: Games that engage the player through exploration, risk-taking, and overcoming obstacles. Game examples: <i>The Legend of Zelda</i> ; <i>Tomb Raider</i> ; <i>Uncharted</i>
Aggressive	SN: Games in which the focus is on forceful, combative actions. Game examples: <i>Mad World</i> ; <i>Mortal Kombat</i> ; <i>Manhunt</i>
Apocalyptic	USE: Dark
Bleak	USE: Dark
Bright	USE: Light-hearted
Calm	USE: Peaceful
Carefree	USE: Light-hearted
Cheerful	USE: Light-hearted
Competitive	SN: Games in which the focus is on competition between other players, either real or artificial. Game examples: <i>Super Smash Bros. Brawl</i> ; <i>Unreal Tournament 3</i> ; <i>Forza Motorsport 4</i>
Comradery	SN: Games in which positive social bonding occurs, either with other players or in-game characters. Game examples: <i>Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons</i> ; <i>Grandia</i> ; <i>Destiny</i>
Cozy	SN: Games that foster a sense of warmth, comfort, and relaxation, often through inviting environments, gentle gameplay, and soothing aesthetics. Game examples: <i>Animal Crossing: New Horizons</i> ; <i>Harvest Moon: Light of Hope</i> RT: Cute, Light-Hearted, Peaceful
Creative	USE: Imaginative

Cute	<p>SN: Games with a charming, childish, and/or delightful quality.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Pokemon Red/Blue</i>; <i>Kirby's Dreamland</i>; <i>Bubble Bobble</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Sweet</p> <p>RT: Cozy</p>
Cynical	USE: Dark
Dark	<p>SN: Games with a grim atmosphere that focus on dismal, gloomy, and/or depressing circumstances.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Bioshock</i>; <i>Dark Souls</i>; <i>Batman: Arkham Asylum</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Apocalyptic, bleak, cynical, gloomy, gritty, somber</p>
Disturbing	USE: Horror
Eerie	<p>SN: Games that create a sense of unease or discomfort, often through unsettling atmospheres, ambiguous threats, and a feeling of something being subtly, but profoundly, wrong.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Oxenfree</i>; <i>What Remains of Edith Finch</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Unsettling</p> <p>RT: Horror</p>
Erotic	USE: Sensual
Funny	USE: Humorous
Gloomy	USE: Dark
Gritty	USE: Dark
Horror	<p>SN: Games that frighten players by playing on primal fears, inducing feelings of horror and terror.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Silent Hill</i>; <i>Resident Evil</i>; <i>Outlast</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Disturbing, Macabre, Paranoid, Scary, Unsettling</p> <p>RT: Eerie</p>
Humorous	<p>SN: Games that possess a funny, amusing quality.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Strong Bad's Cool Game for Attractive People</i>; <i>Sam and Max Hit the Road</i>; <i>Monkey Island</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Funny, Silly, Witty</p> <p>RT: Light-hearted</p>
Imaginative	<p>SN: Games where the primary focus is creative expression of the player, through world-building, character-building, and/or creative problem-solving.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Little Big Planet</i>; <i>Scribblenauts</i>; <i>Minecraft</i>; <i>Spore</i></p> <p>USE FOR: Creative</p>
Immersive	<p>SN: Games that mentally transport or transfix the player to the world or realm presented in the game.</p> <p>Game examples: <i>Dragon Age: Origins</i>; <i>Shenmue</i>; <i>Heavy Rain</i></p>

Intense	SN: Games with an extreme, high-energy tone, meant to inspire strong emotions in the player (stress, determination, a sense of urgency, etc.). Game examples: <i>Metal Gear Solid: Revengeance</i> ; <i>Devil May Cry</i> ; <i>God of War 2</i>
Light-hearted	SN: Games that possess a cheerful, carefree quality. Game examples: <i>Harvest Moon</i> ; <i>Angry Birds</i> ; <i>Peggle</i> USE FOR: Bright, Carefree, Cheerful, Optimistic RT: Cozy, Humorous
Liminal	USE: Eerie
Macabre	USE: Horror
Meditative	USE: Peaceful
Mellow	USE: Peaceful
Mysterious	SN: Games that invoke curiosity and/or suspense through the investigation of the unknown (a crime, a secret, a strange occurrence, etc.). Game examples: <i>Gabriel Knight</i> ; <i>Myst</i> ; <i>The Vanishing of Ethan Carter</i> USE FOR: Suspenseful
Nostalgic	USE: Sentimental
Offbeat	USE: Quirky
Optimistic	USE: Light-hearted
Paranoid	USE: Horror
Peaceful	SN: Games that invoke a sense of calm. Game examples: <i>Flower</i> ; <i>Journey</i> ; <i>Zen Bound</i> USE FOR: Calm, Meditative, Mellow, Relaxed RT: Cozy
Quirky	SN: Games with an unusual or peculiar quality. Game examples: <i>Braid</i> ; <i>Paper Mario</i> ; <i>Katamari Damacy</i> USE FOR: Offbeat, Whimsical
Relaxed	USE: Peaceful
Romantic	SN: Games where a substantial focus is on romantic relationships and the pursuit of love. Game examples: <i>Sentimental Graffiti</i> ; <i>Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 4</i> ; <i>Hatoful Boyfriend</i>
Sad	SN: Games that evoke feelings of sorrow, loss, or melancholy Game examples: <i>The Last of Us</i> ; <i>Final Fantasy 7</i>
Sarcastic	SN: Games that have a sharp, satirical, caustic tone. Game examples: <i>Grand Theft Auto 3</i> ; <i>Fallout 3</i> ; <i>Saints Row the Third</i>

Satirical	USE: Sarcastic
Scary	USE: Horror
Sensual	SN: Games that invoke physical or sexual pleasure. Game examples: <i>Bayonetta</i> ; <i>Catherine</i> USE FOR: Erotic, Sexy
Sentimental	SN: Games with feelings of nostalgia, affection, or tenderness, evoked by a deep connection to the game's themes or memories. Game examples: <i>Unpacking</i> USE FOR: Nostalgic
Sexy	USE: Sensual
Silly	USE: Humorous
Solitary	SN: Games in which the player feels isolated or alone. Game examples: <i>Metroid</i> ; <i>Shadow of the Colossus</i> ; <i>P.T.</i>
Somber	USE: Dark
Suspenseful	USE: Mysterious
Sweet	USE: Cute
Unsettling	USE: Eerie
Whimsical	USE: Quirky