

## Tone Words (don't just say "positive" and "negative")

**abject** – miserable, wretched

**accusatory** – blameful; charging of wrong doing

**apathetic** – indifferent due to lack of energy or concern

**apprehensive** – uneasy about something; fearful

**audacious** – extremely bold or daring; recklessly brave

**awe-struck** – showing solemn wonder

**banal** – overdone, trite, cliché

**belligerent** – quarrelsome, combative, antagonistic

**bitter** – exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or grief

**bombastic** – pompous, inflated, grandiose

**burlesque** – comic; mocking through caricature or comic exaggeration

**callous** – unfeeling, insensitive to feelings of others

**candid** – frank, open, honest, sincere

**caustic** – intensely sarcastic, stinging, biting

**choleric** –hot-tempered, easily angered

**colloquial** –conversational in style; verbally informal

**condescending** – with an air of superiority

**contemplative** – studying, thinking, reflecting on an issue

**contemptuous** – expressing contempt, a lack of respect, or hate

**conventional** – lacking spontaneity, originality, and individuality

**critical** – finding fault, judgemental

**cutting** – abrasive, hurtful, cold

**cynical** – with an attitude of distrust of people and human nature

**derisive** – ridiculing, mocking

**despondent** – showing extreme discouragement or depression

**detached** – disconnected, disinterested, impartial, neutral

**didactic** – in a tone intended to preach a sermon or teach a lesson about life

**disdainful** – expressing contempt, dislike, or hate

**dour** – sullen, dreary, cheerless

**dramatic** – theatrical, colorful, exaggerated, overdone

**dreamy** – vague, indistinct, faint, undefined

**earnest** – intense, a sincere state of mind  
**ebullient** – bubbling, excited, enthusiastic  
**elegiac** – expressing sorrow or regret; mournful  
**erudite** – learned, polished, scholarly  
**euphoric** – with a feeling of elation or great joy  
**evasive** – indirect, misleading, ambiguous  
**facetious** – playfully humorous  
**fanciful** – using the imagination  
**flippant** – dismissive and lacking proper respect  
**forthright** – directly frank without hesitation  
**frivolous** – lacking in seriousness  
**gloomy** – dark, depressing, cheerless  
**grave** – serious, somber, grim  
**halfhearted** – indifferent, uncaring, unenthusiastic  
**haughty** – proud and vain to the point of arrogance  
**hostile** – extremely angry  
**impartial** – showing a lack of bias  
**incisive** – impressively direct and decisive  
**indignant** – feeling or showing anger due to a perceived injustice  
**intimate** – very familiar, cozy  
**irreverent** – lacking proper respect or seriousness  
**judgmental** – authoritative and often having critical opinions  
**jovial** – happy  
**laudatory** – pertaining to or expressing praise  
**leery** – suspicious, doubtful, distrustful  
**listless** – lethargic, sluggish, weary, lifeless  
**lyrical** – expressing a poet's inner feelings; emotional; full of images; song-like  
**malicious** – purposely hurtful  
**matter-of-fact** – accepting of conditions; not fanciful or emotional  
**melancholy** – sad, despondent, crestfallen, heartbroken  
**menacing** – threatening, frightening, terrifying  
**mocking** – treating with contempt or ridicule  
**morose** – gloomy, sullen, surly, despondent

**objective** – an unbiased view-able to leave personal judgments aside  
**obsequious** – overly flattering or eager to please in order to gain something  
**ominous** – signifying evil or harm; foreboding  
**optimistic** – hopeful, cheerful  
**patronizing** – with an air of condescension  
**pedantic** – overly concerned with minute detail; conspicuous about one's learning/knowledge  
**pessimistic** – seeing the worst side of things; no hope  
**poignant** – causing sadness or pity; evoking emotion  
**quizzical** – odd, eccentric, amusing  
**reflective** – illustrating innermost thoughts and emotions  
**remorseful** – full of guilt and regret  
**reverent** – treating a subject with honor and respect  
**ribald** – offensive in speech or gesture  
**ridiculing** – slightly contemptuous banter; making fun of  
**sarcastic** – sneering, caustic  
**sardonic** – scornfully and bitterly sarcastic  
**satiric** – ridiculing to show weakness in order to make a point, teach  
**sincere** – without deceit or pretense; genuine  
**solemn** – deeply earnest, tending toward sad reflection  
**sanguine** – optimistic, cheerful  
**whimsical** – odd, strange, fantastic; fun  
**wry** – expressing a mixture of mild amusement and irony

**Add Your Own Words**