

LEARNING COMMON TONE WORDS

Carefully read through this list of tone words. Place a plus sign (+) to the left of each word whose meaning is clearly understood, put a check mark (✓) next to each word you have some familiarity with, and place a minus sign (-) next to any word whose meaning is not familiar to you. Look up the meanings of all words marked with a check (✓) or minus

(-). This activity will increase your vocabulary and it will allow you to more accurately determine the tone of a reading passage.

___ compassionate	___ disapproving	___ frustrated
___ earnest	___ cruel	___ melancholy
___ comic	___ serious	___ formal
___ bitter	___ vindictive	___ playful
___ absurd	___ amused	___ intense
___ tragic	___ malicious	___ reverent
___ abstruse	___ farcical	___ sympathetic
___ depressed	___ prayerful	___ righteous
___ pessimistic	___ loving	___ solemn
___ complex	___ optimistic	___ condescending
___ ghoulish	___ evasive	___ objective
___ caustic	___ angry	___ apathetic
___ excite	___ joyous	___ nostalgic
___ condemning	___ celebratory	___ incredulous
___ distressed	___ sensational	___ ironic
___ detached	___ irreverent	___ reticent
___ ambivalent	___ indignant	___ critical
___ straightforward	___ grim	___ awestruck
___ wondering	___ ridiculous	___ intimate
___ hard	___ impassioned	___ mocking
___ pathetic	___ outspoken	___ arrogant
___ obsequious	___ satiric	___ outraged
___ uneasy	___ gentle	___ cheerful
___ cynical		