

Tone

Absurd
Accusatory
Acerbic
Admiring
Aggressive
Aggrieved
Ambivalent
Amused
Angry
Animated
Apathetic
Apologetic
Appreciative
Ardent
Arrogant
Assertive
Awestruck
Belligerent
Benevolent
Bitter
Callous
Candid
Caustic
Cautionary
Celebratory
Chatty
Colloquial
Comic
Compassionate
Complex
Compliant
Concerned
Conciliatory
Condescending
Confused
Contemptuous
Critical
Cruel
Curious
Cynical
Defensive
Defiant
Demeaning
Depressing
Derisive
Detached
Dignified
Diplomatic
Disapproving
Disheartening
Disparaging
Direct
Disappointed
Dispassionate
Distressing
Docile
Earnest

Meaning

illogical; ridiculous; silly; implausible; foolish
suggesting someone has done something wrong, complaining
sharp; forthright; biting; hurtful; abrasive; severe
approving; think highly of; respectful; praising
hostile; determined; forceful; argumentative
indignant; annoyed; offended; disgruntled
having mixed feelings; uncertain; in a dilemma; undecided
entertained; diverted; pleased
incensed or enraged; threatening or menacing
full of life or excitement; lively; spirited; impassioned; vibrant
showing little interest; lacking concern; indifferent; unemotional
full of regret; repentant; remorseful; acknowledging failure
grateful; thankful; showing pleasure; enthusiastic
enthusiastic; passionate
pompous; disdainful; overbearing; condescending; vain; scoffing
self-confident; strong-willed; authoritative; insistent
amazed, filled with wonder/awe; reverential
hostile; aggressive; combatant
sympathetic; tolerant; generous; caring; well meaning
angry; acrimonious; antagonistic; spiteful; nasty
cruel disregard; unfeeling; uncaring; indifferent; ruthless
truthful, straightforward; honest; unreserved
making biting, corrosive comments; critical
gives warning; raises awareness; reminding
praising; pay tribute to; glorify; honour
informal; lively; conversational; familiar
familiar; everyday language; informal; colloquial; casual
humorous; witty; entertaining; diverting
sympathetic; empathetic; warm-hearted; tolerant; kind
having many varying characteristics; complicated
agree or obey rules; acquiescent; flexible; submissive
worried; anxious; apprehensive
intended to placate or pacify; appeasing
stooping to the level of one's inferiors; patronising
unable to think clearly; bewildered; vague
showing contempt; scornful; insolent; mocking
finding fault; disapproving; scathing; criticizing
causing pain and suffering; unkind; spiteful; severe
wanting to find out more; inquisitive; questioning
scornful of motives/virtues of others; mocking; sneering
defending a position; shielding; guarding; watchful
obstinate; argumentative; defiant; contentious
disrespectful; undignified
sad, melancholic; discouraging; pessimistic
snide; sarcastic; mocking; dismissive; scornful
aloof; objective; unfeeling; distant
serious; respectful; formal; proper
tactful; subtle; sensitive; thoughtful
displeased; critical; condemnatory
discouraging; demoralising; undermining; depressing
dismissive; critical; scornful
straightforward; honest
discouraged; unhappy because something has gone wrong
impartial; indifferent; unsentimental; cold; unsympathetic
heart-breaking; sad; troubling
compliant; submissive; deferential; accommodating
showing deep sincerity or feeling; serious

Egotistical	self-absorbed; selfish; conceited; boastful
Empathetic	understanding; kind; sensitive
Encouraging	optimistic; supportive
Enthusiastic	excited; energetic
Evasive	ambiguous; cryptic; unclear
Excited	emotionally aroused; stirred
Facetious	inappropriate; flippant
Farcical	ludicrous; absurd; mocking; humorous and highly improbable
Flippant	superficial; glib; shallow; thoughtless; frivolous
Forceful	powerful; energetic; confident; assertive
Formal	respectful; stilted; factual; following accepted styles/rules
Frank	honest; direct; plain; matter-of-fact
Frustrated	annoyed; discouraged
Gentle	kind; considerate; mild; soft
Ghoulish	delighting in the revolting or the loathsome
Grim	serious; gloomy; depressing; lacking humour; macabre
Gullible	naïve; innocent; ignorant
Hard	unfeeling; hard-hearted; unyielding
Humble	deferential; modest
Humorous	amusing; entertaining; playful
Hypercritical	unreasonably critical; hair splitting; nitpicking
Impartial	unbiased; neutral; objective
Impassioned	filled with emotion; ardent
Imploring	pleading; begging
Impressionable	trusting; child-like
Inane	silly; foolish; stupid; nonsensical
Incensed	enraged
Incredulous	disbelieving; unconvinced; questioning; suspicious
Indignant	annoyed; angry; dissatisfied
Informative	instructive; factual; educational
Inspirational	encouraging; reassuring
Intense	earnest; passionate; concentrated; deeply felt
Intimate	familiar; informal; confidential; confessional
Ironic	the opposite of what is meant
Irreverent	lacking respect for things that are generally taken seriously
Jaded	bored; having had too much of the same thing; lack enthusiasm
Joyful	positive; optimistic; cheerful; elated
Judgmental	critical; finding fault; disparaging
Laudatory	praising; recommending
Light-Hearted	carefree; relaxed; chatty; humorous
Loving	affectionate; showing intense, deep concern
Macabre	gruesome; horrifying; frightening
Malicious	desiring to harm others or to see others suffer; ill-willed; spiteful
Mean-Spirited	inconsiderate; unsympathetic
Mocking	scornful; ridiculing; making fun of someone
Mourning	grieving; lamenting; woeful
Naïve	innocent; unsophisticated; immature
Narcissistic	self-admiring; selfish; boastful; self-pitying
Nasty	unpleasant; unkind; disagreeable; abusive
Negative	unhappy, pessimistic
Nostalgic	thinking about the past; wishing for something from the past
Objective	without prejudice; without discrimination; fair; based on fact
Obsequious	overly obedient and/or submissive; fawning; grovelling
Optimistic	hopeful; cheerful
Outraged	angered and resentful; furious; extremely angered
Outspoken	frank; candid; spoken without reserve
Pathetic	expressing pity, sympathy, tenderness
Patronising	condescending; scornful; pompous

Pensive	reflective; introspective; philosophical; contemplative
Persuasive	convincing; eloquent; influential; plausible
Pessimistic	seeing the negative side of things
Philosophical	theoretical; analytical; rational; logical
Playful	full of fun and good spirits; humorous; jesting
Pragmatic	realistic; sensible
Pretentious	affected; artificial; grandiose; rhetorical; flashy
Regretful	apologetic; remorseful
Resentful	aggrieved; offended; displeased; bitter
Resigned	accepting; unhappy
Restrained	controlled; quiet; unemotional
Reverent	showing deep respect and esteem
Righteous	morally right and just; guiltless; pious; god-fearing
Satirical	making fun to show a weakness; ridiculing; derisive
Sarcastic	scornful; mocking; ridiculing
Scathing	critical; stinging; unsparing; harsh
Scornful	expressing contempt or derision; scathing; dismissive
Sensationalistic	provocative; inaccurate; distasteful
Sentimental	thinking about feelings, especially when remembering the past
Sincere	honest; truthful; earnest
Sceptical	disbelieving; unconvinced; doubting
Solemn	not funny; in earnest; serious
Subjective	prejudiced; biased
Submissive	compliant; passive; accommodating; obedient
Sulking	bad-tempered; grumpy; resentful; sullen
Sympathetic	compassionate; understanding of how someone feels
Thoughtful	reflective; serious; absorbed
Tolerant	open-minded; charitable; patient; sympathetic; lenient
Tragic	disastrous; calamitous
Unassuming	modest; self-effacing; restrained
Uneasy	worried; uncomfortable; edgy; nervous
Urgent	insistent; saying something must be done soon
Vindictive	vengeful; spiteful; bitter; unforgiving
Virtuous	lawful; righteous; moral; upstanding
Whimsical	quaint; playful; mischievous; offbeat
Witty	clever; quick-witted; entertaining
Wonder	awe-struck; admiring; fascinating
World-Weary	bored; cynical; tired
Worried	anxious; stressed; fearful
Wretched	miserable; despairing; sorrowful; distressed