

Name _____ Date _____

Tone Practice

Read the several sentences and paragraphs to see if you can correctly identify their tone. Use your instincts, as well as your observations, to choose the correct tone for each paragraph.

1. Mr. Jones, since you obviously appear to know everything, would you like to come up here and teach this class for me?
a. sarcastic b. critical c. disrespectful

2. Did you see what he just did? My goodness!
a. insecure b. humorous c. surprised

3. Your essay? Oh, it was just fabulous. Really, I've never seen anything like it.
a. insincere b. critical c. disrespectful

4. This is one of the best essays I've ever seen. It's clear, concise, and convincing.
a. complimentary b. wistful c. hopeful

5. Bili had stayed up all night preparing for this presentation. He had everything ready: charts, graphs, lists, statistics. This was the biggest meeting of his career. He was ready. He smiled as the cab pulled up to 505 Park Avenue, and he gave the taxi driver an extra-large tip. He entered the building confidently and pushed #11 on the elevator. Suddenly, as the doors of the elevator closed, he realized that he had left his briefcase in the cab.
a. cheerful b. ironic c. critical

Mood Practice

Directions: Read the passages and underline words and phrases that help set the mood. Choose the word that best describes the mood of the passage.

1. Trey looked out the window. The rain was still pouring down. He threw his baseball glove on the couch with a sigh. The thunder cracked and his phone dinged. Trey picked up the phone. It was a message from his cousin: The game is cancelled because of the weather. Trey didn't reply to the message. He threw the phone back on his bed and rubbed his temples. The rain pattered on the roof.
a. gloomy b. nervous c. humorous

2. Brett sweated in his chair. The clock in the classroom ticked loudly. Brett looked at the test question again. He had no clue what the answer was. His teacher paced around the room. Brett felt like the teacher was circling him, specifically him, not the rest of the class. "Remember, this test determines your future," the teacher said. Brett read the choices again

but they all blurred into a meaningless word soup. He could not concentrate. The clock kept ticking, and the second hand sounded like a butcher's knife slamming down on a cutting board. "Time is running out," said the teacher. Brett's heart pounded.

a. dramatic b. nervous c. silly

3. Kiki the Cat licked her lips and stared at Bitty the Bird, who was singing a silly bird song in her cage. Cartoon noises played in the background as the children watched TV. Kiki tiptoed to the edge of the kitchen counter. Bitty kept singing, unaware of the creeping cat, but aware that she was protected by the metal birdcage. Kiki went for it. She sprang toward the birdcage, but as she did, she slipped on some milk on the counter that the children had spilled. Kiki fell off the counter and landed in the trashcan. The lid closed on the milk-covered kitty. Laughter played on the television. Bitty kept whistling.

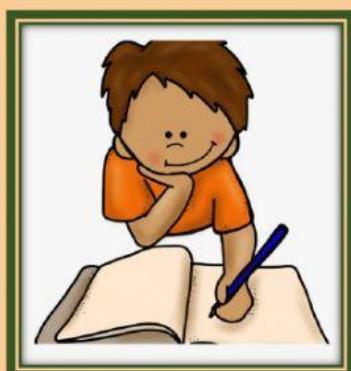
a. tense b. concentrated c. humorous

4. We thought the game was over. The buzzer rang and we thought that we had lost, but then the referee blew the whistle. A foul was called and now Derrick had a chance to win the game for us. He stepped up to the free-throw line. The stadium, though filled with people, was completely silent. Everyone was still. Derrick dribbled the ball a couple times. He squared up on the line. Sweat beaded on his forehead. All eyes were on Derrick.

a. warm b. tense c. silly

5. Katie cut out the construction paper heart with great care. Her hand moved with precision. This was not going to be an ordinary Valentine's Day card. Katie was going to make it special. She went over the penciled letters with her nicest pen. Classical music played in the background. Katie made fancy cursive letters. Slowly, gently, she pasted the lace to the edges of the heart. Her mom was going to love this card as much as Katie loved her. It was almost complete. Just a few more special touches to go.

a. constructive b. depressed c. warm



Tone - The attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience conveyed through word choice and the style of the writing.

Mood - The overall feeling, or atmosphere, of a text often created by the author's use of imagery and word choice.