**A Vocabulary for Describing Language**

**Tone (Positive)**

**Happiness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| amiable | cheery | contented | ecstatic | elevated |
| enthusiastic | exuberant | joyful | jubilant | sprightly |

**Pleasure**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| cheerful | enraptured | peaceful | playful | pleasant |
| satisfied | amused | appreciative | whimsical |  |

**Friendliness, Courtesy**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accommodating | approving | caressing | comforting | compassionate |
| confiding | cordial | courteous | forgiving | gracious |
| helpful | indulgent | kindly | obliging | pitying |
| polite | sociable | solicitous | soothing | sympathetic |
| tender | tolerant | trusting |  |  |

**Animation**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ardent | breathless | brisk | crisp | eager |
| excited | earnest | ecstatic | energetic | exalted |
| feverish | hasty | hearty | hopeful | inspired |
| lively | passionate | rapturous | vigorous | impassioned |

**Romance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| affectionate | amorous | erotic | fanciful | ideal |
| lustful | sensual | tender |  |  |

Tranquility

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| calm | hopeful | meditative | optimistic | serene |
| relaxed | soothing | spiritual | dreamy |  |

**Tone (Neutral)**

**General**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| authoritative | baffled | ceremonial | clinical | detached |
| disbelieving | factual | formal | informative | learned |
| matter-of-fact | nostalgic | objective | questioning | reminiscent |
| restrained | sentimental | shocked | urgent |  |

**Rational/Logical**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| admonitory | argumentative | candid | coaxing | critical |
| curious | deliberate | didactic | doubting | explanatory |
| frank | incredulous | indignant | innocent | insinuating |
| instructive | oracular | pensive | persuasive | pleading |
| preoccupied | puzzled | sincere | studied | thoughtful |
| uncertain | unequivocal | probing |  |  |

**Self-Control**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| solemn | serious | serene | simple | mild |
| gentle | temperate | imperturbable | nonchalant | cool |
| wary | cautious | prudent |  |  |

**Apathy**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| blasé | bored | colorless | defeated | dispassionate |
| dry | dull | feeble | helpless | hopeless |
| indifferent | inert | languid | monotonous | resigned |
| sluggish | stoical | sophisticated | vacant |  |

**Tone (Humor/Irony/Sarcasm)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| amused | bantering | bitter | caustic | comical |
| condescending | contemptuous | cynical | disdainful | droll |
| facetious | flippant | giddy | humorous | insolent |
| mocking | mock-serious | patronizing | pompous | quizzical |
| ribald | ridiculing | sarcastic | sardonic | satiric |
| scornful | sharp | silly | taunting | teasing |
| whimsical | wry | belittling | haughty | insulting |
| playful | hilarious | uproarious |  |  |

**Tone (Negative)**

**General**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accusing | aggravated | agitated | angry | arrogant |
| artificial | audacious | belligerent | bitter | brash |
| childish | choleric | coarse | cold | condemnatory |
| condescending | contradictory | critical | desperate | disappointed |
| disgruntled | disgusted | disinterested | passive | furious |
| harsh | hateful | hurtful | indignant | inflammatory |
| insulting | irritated | manipulative | obnoxious | quarrelsome |
| shameful | superficial | surly | testy | threatening |
| uninterested |  |  |  |  |

**Sadness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| despairing | despondent | foreboding | gloomy | bleak |
| melancholy | maudlin | regretful | tragic |  |

**Pain**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| annoyed | bitter | bored | crushed | disappointed |
| disgusted | dismal | fretful | irritable | miserable |
| mournful | pathetic | plaintive | querulous | sore |
| sorrowful | sour | sulky | sullen | troubled |
| uneasy | vexed | worried |  |  |

**Unfriendliness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accusing | belittling | boorish | cutting | derisive |
| disparaging | impudent | pitiless | reproving | scolding |
| severe | spiteful | suspicious | unsociable | reproachful |

**Anger**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| belligerent | furious | livid | wrathful | savage |
| indignant | enraged |  |  |  |

**Passion**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| fierce | frantic | greedy | voracious | hysterical |
| insane | impetuous | impulsive | jealous | nervous |
| reckless | wild |  |  |  |

**Arrogance/Self-Importance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| boastful | bold | condescending | contemptuous | pretentious |
| pompous | supercilious | pedantic | didactic | bombastic |
| self-righteous | assured | confident | defiant | dignified |
| domineering | egotistical | imperious | impressive | smug |
| knowing | lofty | peremptory | profound | proud |
| resolute | sententious | stiff | saucy |  |

**Sorrow/Fear/Worry**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aggravated | anxious | apologetic | apprehensive | concerned |
| confused | depressed | disturbed | embarrassing | fearful |
| grave | hollow | morose | nervous | numb |
| ominous | paranoid | pessimistic | poignant | remorseful |
| serious | staid |  |  |  |

**Submission/Timidity**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aghast | alarmed | ashamed | astonished | astounded |
| awed | contrite | self-deprecatory | docile | fawning |
| groveling | ingratiating | meek | modest | obedient |
| obsequious | resigned | respectful | reverent | servile |
| shy | submissive | surprised | sycophantic | terrified |
| timid | tremulous | unpretentious |  |  |