Types of tone

**Tone** does not relate directly to meaning but rather to the way in which something is said. It refers to a particular attitude or feeling conveyed by the writer. A question on tone is asking you what the writer's choice of words reveals about **his feelings or his attitude** to his subject.

It would be impossible to list every nuance of tone that a writer might use, as there are as many as there are attitudes but they can be broadly categorised. You must first consider whether the author is being serious or light-hearted about his subject.

A **light-hearted tone** will often include **informal** and **conversational** language, whereas a serious, respectful tone will use more formal words.

Below are some ideas to get you started. Add to this list throughout the course of the year.

Serious

Accusatory

Angry

Condemnatory

Contemptuous

Critical

Cynical

Derisive

Detatched

Disapproving

Disdainful

Disinterested/matter of fact

Emotive

Frustrated

Incredulous

Irreverent

Mocking

Outraged

Satirical

Scornful

Scornful

Solemn

Light-hearted

Chatty

Effusive

Enthusiastic

Flippant

Friendly

Humorous

Ironic

Sarcastic

Sardonic

Tongue in cheek