

Identifying tone and mood

Master the reading strategy!



What is tone and mood?

- Tone ➤ the writer's **attitude** towards a subject or topic
- Mood ➤ the **feeling** or **atmosphere** which the writer creates for the readers

How do we identify them?

- by examining the writer's choice of words to interpret his/her feelings towards the subject or topic
- * Sometimes, the same adjective can reveal a tone and depict a mood.

Why do we need to identify them?

- It helps us find the message behind the writing, and understand the writer's stance better.

Let's have a closer look!

The writer's assertiveness suggests his disagreement with those parents.

Children using mobile phones is not in itself a concern.

I can never understand why parents prohibit their children from using mobile phones when they do so themselves. Using mobile phones does not necessarily affect children's eyesight adversely or distract them from their studies. Instead, mobile phones actually allow them to look up useful information online or to take a short break from their studies. The only issue that needs to be addressed is the amount of time they spend on the devices. One of the effective ways is to limit their screentime so that they will not become addicted to their phones.

The writer's insights are opposite to the parents' attitude.

The writer feels _____ about the use of mobile phones among children.

- A. confused (unable to understand something)
- B. worried (anxious about what might happen)
- C. pessimistic (gloomy)
- D. optimistic (having hope for the future)

Learn the meaning of each adjective in the options.

Let's practise!

There is a growing number of people who choose to make new friends online or through mobile applications, rather than by meeting people face-to-face. Some even believe that they can find their true love there. It is hilarious to see them looking for and selecting life partners like ordering food at McDonald's. Just state their preferences with a few clicks on the screen, and they will get their perfect match instantly! It is just as easy as that. Apparently, the countless stories of terrible dating experiences are not dreadful enough to stop them from adopting these approaches to make friends.

What is the tone of the writer?

- A. contented
- B. sarcastic
- C. distressed
- D. sorrowful

With reference to the writer's choice of words, guess the meaning of each adjective in the options and choose the one that matches the paragraph's tone.