



Identifying tone and mood



What are tone and mood?

- the writer's attitude towards a subject or topic, e.g. positive, negative, etc.
- the text's overall writing style, e.g. amusing, critical, etc.

How to identify them?

- Read the text and pay attention to the writer's choice of words. Consider how these words reflect the writer's attitude and feelings.
- Read the text to find out its overall writing style.

Let's look closer!

Professional basketball has gone through a major change over the past few decades. Until the 1990s, professional games were mostly watched by people in North America. However, as more people subscribed to satellite television, these games could finally reach global audiences. Professional players like Stephen Curry are now global stars, and they regularly travel to other countries to meet their fans. Basketball has transformed into a sport that brings people from different cultures together. The number of basketball fans worldwide will no doubt keep growing.

DSE 2022 Part B1 Q40 Multiple choice

e.g. What is the writer's attitude towards basketball?

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. critical (disapproving) | C. neutral (not supporting any position) | A | B | C | D |
| B. doubtful (uncertain) | D. favourable (approving) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

The writer believes that basketball *brings people from different cultures together*, and that the number of fans *will no doubt keep growing*. These both reflect a favourable attitude.

Mr Pang: I agree that hiking is an enjoyable hobby that allows us to relax and exercise our bodies at the same time. What I can't agree with is the behaviour of certain hikers. Every time I go hiking, I see pictures drawn on rocks. I see rubbish littered on the ground, some of which can be dangerous to wild animals. At scenic spots, there are so many people stopping to take selfies that it can get even more crowded than Mong Kok! I think we all have to be much more considerate when we go out to enjoy our wonderful country parks.

DSE 2021 Part B2 Q59 Multiple choice

e.g. What is the tone of Mr Pang?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. critical (disapproving) | C. humorous (funny) | A | B | C | D |
| B. indifferent (having no opinion) | D. favourable (approving) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mr Pang lists three things other hikers have done that annoy him. At the end, he makes a suggestion to these people. These all reflect a critical tone.

Let's practise!

For many people, flying their drones is their favourite pastime. The drones can take breathtaking videos from high up in the sky. They also challenge and hone the control skills of their owners, providing them with many happy and fun days.

However, drones have also brought with them new problems. Some people complained that some drones have flown very closely to their homes, violating their privacy. Police have also discovered drones near the airport, which can cause air accidents if they get too close to planes.

Given this, there is now a debate on implementing stricter laws to regulate the operation of drones. Up to now, though, no one can agree on how strict the laws should be.

DSE 2022 Part B2 Q65 Multiple choice

1 What is the writer's view towards the use of drones in this text?

- A. supportive B. neutral C. critical D. worried

Mrs Law: I have been a tea drinker for over 50 years, and I am proof of the benefits of drinking tea. Drinking a cup of tea in the morning really wakes you up and prepares you for the day ahead. When you feel stressed or tired, tea gives you a feeling of peace and calm. My doctor also told me that it makes me live longer and healthier, which is why I recommended tea to all of my friends.

DSE 2021 Part B2 Q59 Multiple choice

2 What is the tone of Mrs Law?

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. supportive | C. critical | A | B | C | D |
| B. neutral | D. doubtful | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Exam Booster

Hi, Nathan. My new helper is amazing at housekeeping. She cleans the house thoroughly, and cares for my baby daughter. But there is this one thing: she cooked us boiled bananas for dinner! What is your advice?
Edna Yeung

Edna. What planet did your helper come from? Mars? If I were you, I would enrol her in a cooking course straight away. In the meantime, enjoy your boiled bananas!
Nathan Cheung

DSE 2020 Part B2 Q59 Multiple choice

1 What is the tone of Nathan's response to Edna Yeung?

- A. angry B. excited C. frustrated D. humorous