



# Identifying tone and mood



## What is tone and mood?

- Tone is the writer's **attitude** towards a subject or topic.
- Mood is the **feeling** or **atmosphere** which the writer creates.

## Why do we need to identify them?

- It allows us to better understand the writer's viewpoint and identify the message of the text.

## How do we identify them?

- We can interpret the writer's tone and mood on the subject or topic by examining the details and word choices.

## Let's look closer!

Board games teach children the value of teamwork, improve their language skills and boost their brainpower.

**but (conj.) = introduces a statement or viewpoint different from what is said before**  
**seriously (adv.) = not joking**

All very nice, but seriously—have you seen the latest iPad and Nintendo Switch? How can you compete with them?

The two rhetorical questions suggest that board games cannot compete with high-tech gadgets like iPad and Nintendo Switch.

### DSE 2012 Part A Q15 Multiple choice

e.g. What is the tone of the writer in paragraph 2?

- |                          |                        |                       |                                  |                       |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. positive (supportive) | C. worried (troubled)  | A                     | B                                | C                     | D                     |
| B. doubtful (uncertain)  | D. neutral (objective) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

This sentence is a compliment. It means 'If there had not been support from the seniors, we couldn't have won the race'.

When the seniors of the relay team heard that the team got through to the final, those seniors were so excited that they all volunteered to help with the training for the final. Very often, the team practised until late at night. But the seniors never left before the team. Sometimes, they volunteered to prepare fitness meals and sports drinks for the runners. They also took care of the mental wellness of the runners to ensure that they maintained peak performance.

'We couldn't have won this race without our seniors,' the captain of the winning relay team stated.

We use the modal *can* to talk about ability. *Could not + have + past participle* is used here to show that the team would not be able to win without their seniors.

### DSE 2012 Part B1 Q28 Multiple choice

e.g. How did the captain feel when she said, 'We couldn't have won this race without our seniors'?

- |                          |                        |                       |                       |                                  |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. reflective (thinking) | C. grateful (thankful) | A                     | B                     | C                                | D                     |
| B. confident (proud)     | D. frustrated (upset)  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Let's practise!

Dear Coach May,

I have no idea why I keep gaining weight when I'm trying to lose it. Can you give me some tips?

Jenna

Dear Jenna,

It's normal to have ups and downs in your weight-loss journey. Just do not stop exercising. You could start with a simple routine. Turn your head to the right then to the left. Repeat this every time you are offered something to eat.

Coach May

### **DSE** 2020 Part B2 Q59 Multiple choice

① What is the tone of Coach May in her response to Jenna?

A. bitter

C. distressed

A

B

C

D

B. supportive

D. humorous

**Dr Liu:** The ever-increasing amount of misinformation about flu vaccines has posed a serious threat to public health. If individuals doubt the safety and efficacy of flu vaccines, they will refuse to get vaccinated and this will place a great burden on the healthcare system. The fact that unvaccinated individuals tend to suffer from severe illnesses tells us that we cannot reject vaccination because of the fake news related to flu vaccines on social media.

### **DSE** 2021 Part B2 Q59 Multiple choice

② What is the tone of Dr Liu?

A. critical

C. sarcastic

A

B

C

D

B. aggressive

D. indifferent

## Exam Booster

'We're assembling the beautiful buttons from the old clothes of our grandparents,' Mavis says. 'They are amazing. What the team say most is "Wow". We're supposed to be gathering the vintage buttons for collages but we just can't focus while we're looking at them—how rare they are!'

### **DSE** 2012 Part B1 Q33 Long question

① Why do the team say 'Wow'?

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