

TYPES OF TONES

Broadly, the tones used are **subjective or objective**. As you would guess, the objective tone is used when the author chooses to remain neutral and detached. On the other hand, a subjective tone reveals the attitude and emotions of the author with respect to the issue. Generally, CAT RCs feature in the following types of tones:

Acerbic/harsh/severe/bitter/caustic/vitrolitic:

How would you express your dislike or disapproval for something or someone in a harsh way? Here comes the role of acerbic tone. The author reveals his disagreement with a particular theory or may express his disdain towards a person in an acerbic tone. Once you identify this tone, you will be able to answer the 'author agree/disagree' questions that follow the RC passage

Angry/indignant:

Similar to the above type, this kind of tone shows the author's anger towards the subject in a justified way. How do you justify your anger towards any unfair system? You may do so by some arguments, facts and examples regarding the subject. Similarly, the author intends to justify his anger by stating various reasons related to the issue.

Such RC passages revolve around biased systems or policies followed by the authorities. Questions based on such passages are generally direct and easy to answer.

Apologetic

As the name states, this kind of tone is used to express remorse or guilt regarding the mishaps or tragedies that may have occurred in the past. RC passages based on this tone generally talk of theories related to world wars, natural disasters or other such catastrophes that have impacted mankind adversely. Such passages may also include a lot of facts and figures.

Belligerent/bellicose

In which tone do you think two warring parties talk to each other? As you would guess, they are aggressively hostile towards each other. This is when author adopts belligerent tone of writing. Think of the feelings that Allies and Axis powers had towards each other. RC passages based on this kind of tone are easily to understand and let you easily predict the answers to inference-based questions.

Biased

While favouring one thing/person/group over the other, we tend to use a biased tone to display our inclination towards it. Similarly, the author uses a biased tone and presents arguments in favour of a particular thing/theory in the passage. Once you identify the author's stand, you will be able to figure out the answers to the required questions.

Commiserating

This type of tone is used to express grief or show sympathy for a person or a group of people suffering from prejudiced practices or cultural norms. The author intends to familiarize the reader with the trauma undergone by the sufferers.

Condescending/Patronizing

A condescending tone implies an attitude of patronizing superiority of a particular thing/person/group. As you would expect, such RC passages may display snobbish or scornful tones with regard to things considered inferior in the author's view.

Contemptuous/derisive/disparaging

This kind of tone exhibits author's disdain or contempt towards the subject. You will often find such passages treating the subject in a scornful and ridiculous way.

Cynical

How do tend to speak about people you find distrustful? Here comes the role of cynical tone. Passages written in cynical tone reveal author's view of society being driven purely by self-interest.

Dogmatic

You must have some firm beliefs and perspective regarding particular aspects of life. In what kind of tone will you speak about them? This is where dogmatic tone comes into play. When the author is assertive regarding his opinions, he uses a dogmatic tone to convey his viewpoint.

Emotional

While narrating an incident/event/story, the author uses an emotional tone of writing in order to portray the feelings regarding the same. Such RC passages may appear complex and need to be reread to arrive at the right answer.

Ethical

As you would know, the issues of ethics in business have assumed greater relevance in the growing corporate culture. Such RC passages commonly feature in CAT exam. The author employs an ethical tone to depict the issues of morality, righteousness, honesty, etc.

Euphemistic

How do you express your disliking or disagreement without being offensive or blunt? In such a case, euphemistic tone comes to your rescue. RC passages in this kind of tone make use of indirect and implicit statements.

Grandiose

As the name suggests, this type of tone is adopted by passages written in a descriptive or abstract style. The passage may appear more elaborative than necessary. Also, sometimes abstract passages utilize a grandiose tone of writing.

Humanistic

As you would guess, a humanistic tone of writing is most suitable to issues related to welfare, values and other such human affairs. A good idea for such passages would be to glance at the questions before reading the passage. This way, you will be able to grasp the essence of the given passage/theory.

Humorous

One of the most interesting tones of writing, a humorous tone is witty and amusing at the same time. All you need to do is spot the message that that author wants to convey in a light-hearted manner.

Introspective

How would you talk about analysing your feelings or contemplate your actions? Well, an introspective tone is employed in the passage so as to self-examine and reflect upon one's actions and feelings.

Incendiary/ provocative

You may have come across some famous speeches by great orators and found their words moving or soul-stirring. Well, that's an incendiary tone into play. It's the tone of speech utilized by revolutionaries and politicians as well. In other words, an incendiary tone is meant to incite people in a negative or positive direction.

Laudatory

How have you praised something or someone you admired? That's what laudatory tone sounds like. Often, descriptive passages adopt this kind of tone so as to discuss a particular subject along with certain justifications.

Motivating

Another interesting kind of tone, a motivating tone of writing aims to inspire and propel you by the use of influential quotes and examples. Such passages may present examples of some popular personalities and incidents from their lives.

Pedestrian

When a passage appears neither interesting nor complex to you, probably it has a pedestrian tone of writing. In other words, this kind of tone is used when the RC passage talks about commonplace things and ideas.

Populist

As the name says, a populist tone is used to discuss theories and characteristics exhibited by general populace. The author of the passage utilizes a populist tone to explain features and behavior of common people.

Romantic

As you would expect, this kind of tone is fanciful and exaggerated. Such passages may appear interesting to read but contains unrealistic content. This tone is mostly used for abstract RC passages.

Sarcastic/satirical/ironical/taunting

Try expressing your disliking indirectly and without sounding too serious? Well, most of us have spoken in this way at one time or the other. When the author states a negative opinion about something in a taunting or ironic way, he uses a sarcastic tone in the passage.

Speculative

We do read about various speculations in newspapers- economic, political, etc. Similarly, RC passages explaining any such theories adopt a speculative tone of writing. Putting it other ways, such passages revolve around hypothetical things and expert opinions.

Technical

As the name states, the author of the passages tends to use technical jargons while using this tone of writing. This type of tone is generally used to discuss the core ideas of particular fields of study. Such passages are generally accompanied by a lot of facts and figures.

Tone Based Reading Comprehension

1. Drivers are required to give a minimum of one metre when passing a cyclist where the speed limit is 60km/h or less or 1.5 metres where the speed limit is over 60km/h. Cyclists have less protection than motorists and are more likely to be injured if a crash happens, so they need adequate space when on the road. The rule applies to all types of vehicles including cars, motorbikes, trucks and buses when passing a cyclist. If a driver has a clear view of any approaching traffic and can do so safely, they are permitted to drive to the right of the centre of the road.
In context to the passage, identify the tone of the author
 A. Argumentative B. Informative C. Caustic D. Idealistic

2. On hot summer vacations her family drove to the lassi corner, where, for just a couple of minutes, nothing bothered but the chilled, sweet treat. No dessert, before or since, was as delicious as a double-dip yogurt eaten while she balanced on a log behind the parking lot.
In context to the passage which of the following is tone of the passage?
 A. Nostalgic B. Populist C. Cynical D. Satirical

3. As everyone knows, the general idea of the Doctrine of Descent is that the plants and animals of the present day are the lineal descendants of ancestors on the whole somewhat simpler, that these again are descended from yet simpler forms, and so on backwards towards the literal "Protozoa" and "Protophyta" about which we unfortunately know nothing. Now no one supposes that Darwin originated this idea, which in rudiment at least is as old as Aristotle. What Darwin did was to make it current intellectual coin. He gave it a form that commended itself to the scientific and public intelligence of the day, and he won widespread conviction by showing with consummate skill that it was an effective formula to work with, a key which no lock refused. In a scholarly, critical, and pre-eminently fair-minded way, admitting difficulties and removing them, foreseeing objections and forestalling them, he showed that the doctrine of descent supplied a modal interpretation of how our present-day fauna and flora have come to be.
 A. Laudatory B. Satirical C. Sarcastic D. Analytical

4. "That dark and vast sea of human labor in China and India, the South Seas and all Africa; in the West Indies and Central America and in the United States — that great majority of humankind, on whose bent and broken backs rest today the founding stones of modern industry — shares a common destiny; it is despised and rejected by race and color; paid a wage below the level of decent living; driven, beaten, prisoned and enslaved in all but name....—how shall we end the list and where?...Here is the real modern labor problem....Out of the exploitation of the dark proletariat comes the Surplus Value filched from human beasts....The emancipation of man is the emancipation of labor and the emancipation of labor is the freeing of that basic majority of workers who are yellow, brown, and black."
In context to the passage, what is the tone of the author?
 A. Commiserating B. Populist C. Speculative D. Emotional

5. The Great War, more commonly known as World War I, influences F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel in many important ways. The War directly causes Gatsby to lose his lover Daisy and is responsible for his Montenegro medal and significant "Oxford education". World War I forced many young American men to leave their family to fight a war in unfamiliar European territory. Unexpectedly drafted into a conflict that they had little concern for, the War inexplicably altered the lives of millions of Americans. Faced with terrible conditions and unbridled inhumanity many soldiers returned home insane or permanently shocked from their war experiences. To add insult to injury, the government failed in its duty to assist veterans economically after they returned from the War. For Gatsby, World War I meant that he would have to leave his sweetheart Daisy behind while he fought overseas. Though they regularly sent letters to each other at first, Daisy eventually grows tired of waiting for Gatsby and marries Tom Buchanan; Gatsby literally loses Daisy to the War. When Gatsby returns he is extremely poor, barely surviving from day to day. He is forced to wear his military uniform for months after his return because he is unable to purchase civilian clothing. When offered lunch by Meyer Wolfsheimer, Gatsby "ate more than four dollars' worth of food in half an hour". Without money Gatsby could no longer attract Daisy like in his youth. Gatsby's sad story was echoed by an entire generation of American veterans.
In context to the passage identify the tone of the author.
 A. Populist B. Penchant C. Analytical D. Emotional

6. "At first, I thought it was going to be a fairly smooth transition, but it turns out He and I don't see eye to eye on a lot of things," said the pope, adding that the difficult new omnipotent deity had been "riding [his] ass nonstop" on everything from the divine revelation to the liturgical calendar. "I got along great with the old God, but this one gets wrathful over practically nothing. Frankly, He's kind of a dick."
 A. Narrative B. patronizing C. Populist D. Satirical

7. Socialism has been defined in many different ways, mostly in regard to political ideology and political dynamics, but only in recent years in relation to communication variables. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the identification of a socially mediated type of socialist communication profoundly affected by the specific nature of social media. It presents and discusses empirical evidence on Italy's socialist and non-socialist leaders that use Facebook regularly, and highlights the extent of the overflow of socialist communication patterns and ideological features into mainstream political communication.
 A. Analytical B. Argumentative C. Impetus D. Narrative

8. I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity but one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition in a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

In context to the passage, what is the tone of the author?

- A. Populist B. Incendiary C. Motivational D. Monologue

9. "I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone.

At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty's Government-every man of them.

That is the will of Parliament and the nation. The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength.

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France,

we shall fight on the seas and oceans,

we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be,

we shall fight on the beaches,

we shall fight on the landing grounds,

we shall fight in the fields and in the streets,

we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

In context to the passage, identify the tone of the author ?

- A. Laudatory B. Speculative C. Provocative D. Motivating

10. "I knew that if I just prayed hard enough, God would hear me," said the joyful Timmy, surrounded by stuffed animals sent by well-wishing Christians from around the globe, as he sat in the wheelchair to which he will be confined for the rest of his life. "And now my prayer has been answered. I haven't been this happy since before the accident, when I could walk and play with the other children like a normal boy."

In context to the passage, identify the tone of the author?

- A. Sarcastic B. Laudatory C. Joyful D. Emotional

11. In this article, we discuss molecular mechanisms involved in the evolution of amygdala kindling and the episodic loss of response to pharmacological treatments during tolerance development. These phenomena allow us to consider how similar principles (in different neurochemical systems) could account for illness progression, cyclicality, and drug tolerance in affective disorders. We describe the phenomenon of amygdala-kindled seizures episodically breaking through effective daily pharmacotherapy with carbamazepine and valproate, suggesting that these observations could reflect the balance of pathological vs compensatory illness-induced changes in gene expression. Under certain circumstances, amygdala-kindled animals that were initially drug responsive can develop highly individualized patterns of seizure breakthroughs progressing toward a complete loss of drug efficacy. This initial drug efficacy may reflect the combination of drug-related exogenous neurochemical mechanisms and illness-induced endogenous compensatory mechanisms. However, we postulate that when seizures are inhibited, the endogenous illness-induced adaptations dissipate (the "time-off seizure" effect), leading to the re-emergence of seizures, a re-induction of a new, but diminished, set of endogenous compensatory mechanisms, and a temporary period of renewed drug efficacy. As this pattern repeats, an intermittent or cyclic response to the anticonvulsant treatment emerges, leading toward complete drug tolerance.

In context to the passage, identify the tone of the author.

- A. Technical B. Speculative C. Analytical D. Pedestrian

12. Though I didn't know it at the time, I'd stumbled upon a myth about self-awareness, and one that researchers are only beginning to understand. University of Sydney psychologist Anthony M. Grant discovered that people who possess greater *insight* which he defines as an intuitive understanding of ourselves enjoy stronger relationships, a clearer sense of purpose and greater well-being, self-acceptance and happiness. Similar studies have shown that people high in insight feel more in control of their lives, show more dramatic personal growth, enjoy better relationships and feel calmer and more content. However, Grant and others have also come to realize there's no relationship between introspection and insight. This means that the act of thinking about ourselves isn't necessarily correlated with knowing ourselves. And, in a few cases, they've even found the opposite: the more time the participants spend in introspection, the less *self-knowledge* they have. In other words, we can spend endless amounts of time in self-reflection but emerge with no more self-insight than when we started.

In context to the passage, which of the following is the tone of the author?

- A. Analytical B. Commiserating C. Argumentative D. Introspective

13. Love is the most powerful feeling in this world, with it everything is possible. It encompasses the peace of mind and complete harmony to live for each other. A binding relationship remains without boundaries and unconditional, by its nature. The relationship altogether with pure emotions, by loving and being loved in response. We find a very interesting reality that it a personal choice which one makes and feels quite contented with his or her decision. The feeling of the power to choose uplifts the emotional level of commitment. The relationship starts with inner motive and remains personal choice. A lot of people have left their family, city, country and sometimes the kingship to get their loved ones. No matter if somebody is poor or rich, black or white, having same status or family yet love works under emotional control and sometimes we call it blind. A true love defines your future and way of living in this world. Any relationship based upon some other motive like wealth or worldly position suffers a breakup and the individuals are no more attracted to live together because they don't have a love binding to compromise with the situation or the consequences to hold the inner feelings. Life is beautiful due to the presence of love and harmony so it should be led by commitment and regards.

In context to the passage what is the tone of the author

- A. Joyous B. Romantic C. Ethical D. Emotional

14. Sweet, sweet is the greeting of eyes, and sweet is the voice in its greeting, When adieus have grown old and goodbyes Fade away where old Time is retreating. Warm the nerve of a welcoming hand, And earnest a kiss on the brow, When we meet over sea and o'er land Where furrows are new to the plough.

In context to the extract, what is the tone of the author?

- A. Rhetorical B. Poetic C. Romantic D. Emotional

15. When things go wrong as they sometimes will; When the road you're trudging seems all uphill; When the funds are low, and the debts are high; And you want to smile, but you have to sigh; When care is pressing you down a bit Rest if you must, but don't you quit. Success is failure turned inside out; The silver tint of the clouds of doubt; And you can never tell how close you are; It may be near when it seems afar. So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit – It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

In context to the given extract what is the tone of author

- A. Motivational B. Penchant C. Commiserative D. Impetus



Answers

1. Correct option A
 Explanation: The passage is straightforward giving you information without evaluating the content Choice B is a perfect fit as choice A is tone used for arguments passed by author which is not valid over here. Choice C is not valid here because caustic tone drips acid over reader this tone is used during some arguments.
2. Option A is correct
 Explanation: While strolling down a memory lane here with no potholes in sight therefore nostalgic (yearning for a happy moment in the past) a biting tone cuts and hurts, an irreverent one mocks something considered holy, and a cynical tone is distrustful and bitter. You've probably seen satirical comedy shows that specialize in ridicule.
3. Correct option is A
 Explanation:
 The passage is informing about the merits of Doctrine of Descent the author critically examines the work and gives it credit where it is due. The tone of the passage is neutral - neither too positive nor negative. From the options we can reject option B as it adds new information that the original idea was first thought of by Aristotle. The passage just says that the idea is at least as old as Aristotle without stating its origin. We can eliminate option C as the tone of the passage is neutral and not negative like the option. Option C is dismissive of Darwin's work and hence does not match the passage in tone. Dismissive in the sense that if you analyze a theory, you are bound to look at both the pros and the cons of the theory. here, we are only seeing the positive remarks, and no "negative" sides of the theory. Hence, to call this analytical would be to assume that a negative side is present and we can dismiss the positive content. Option D gives too many details while missing out on the actual merits of the doctrine.
4. Option A is correct
 Explanation: Option A is correct because here author talks about sufferings this type of tone is used to express grief or show sympathy for a person or a group of people suffering from prejudiced practices or cultural norms. The author intends to familiarize the reader with the trauma undergone by the sufferers.
5. Option A is correct.
 Explanation: Passages that have an informative tone are quite similar to analytical ones, except that they have more data points and, in many cases, numbers to discuss than views. Informative essays are filled with facts and figures to inform the reader and make them aware of all the facts to analyze and make their own view which is absolutely fits over here.
6. Option D is correct.
 Explanation: As the Pope Francis Worried About Job Security After Butting Heads With New Godstates a negative opinion about something in a taunting or ironic way, he uses a sarcastic tone in the passage.
7. Option A is correct.
 Explanation: Option A is correct because given passage talks about socialism and more or less discussing theories and characteristics exhibited by general populace
8. Option B is correct
 Explanation: Option B is correct as this given passage is speech of Martin Luther King so the tone is incendiary as this tone is used in some famous speeches by great orators and found their words moving or soul-stirring. Well, that's an incendiary tone into play.
9. Option C is correct
 Explanation: As the passage displays the great words of Winston Churchill so here the tone is provocative as this tone is used in words by great orators and found their words moving or soul-stirring. Well, that's an provocative tone into play.
10. Option A is correct.
 Explanation:
 Option A is correct because author uses the sarcastic way of expressing his views hence the rest of the options are vague.
11. Option B is Correct

Explanation: After reading the given passage we will analyze the passage is discussing speculative model of affective illness cyclicity based on patterns of drug tolerance and the tone used in passage is speculative as it used in passages explaining theories adopt a speculative tone of writing.

12. Option D is correct.

Explanation: The passage is discussing about self awareness and development hence tone of the author is Introspective.

13. Option C is correct.

Explanation: Going through the above passage we will get a gist of preaching that is based on ethics and the author uses tone that is ethical.

14. Option C is correct.

Explanation: While reading this extract we will get a gist of Romance written by John Keats hence, the tone of the author Romantic.

15. Option D is correct

Explanation: Option D is correct because the given extract is a kind of motivation written by author and here impetus is the tone used by author for deriving the same force of motivation.