

## Adjectives Used to Describe Tone In The Last Ten SAT's

**Abhorring-** to regard with horror or loathing; detest  
**Academic-** scholarly  
**Accusatory-** charging of wrong doing  
**Admiration-** to regard with pleasure, wonder, and approval  
**Affectionate-** having or showing fond feelings or affection, loving, tender  
**Aghast-** shocked  
**Agony-** a horrible feeling  
**Agreement**  
**Aloof--**haughty, distant  
**Amazement**  
**Ambivalent--**indecisive, mixed emotion  
**Amorous-** loving  
**Amusement**  
**Anger**  
**Anguished-** unbearable sorrow  
**Annoyed**  
**Antagonistic-** one who contends against another; an adversary  
**Anticipation**  
**Anxiety-** stressed  
**Apathetic--** uncaring, uninvolved  
**Appreciative**  
**Approval-** to consider right or good: think or speak favorably of  
**Argumentative**  
**Arrogant**  
**Audacious-** bold and daring  
**Awe-** solemn wonder  
**Belligerent-** hostile, aggressive  
**Benevolent-** characterized by or suggestive of doing good  
**Biting**  
**Bitter--**hating, malicious  
**Bliss-** the state of nothing but pleasure  
**Brutal**  
**Callous-** unfeeling, insensitive to the feelings of others  
**Calmness**  
**Candid--**frank, truthful  
**Carefree**  
**Castigation-** severe criticism or punishment  
**Cathartic--**purging, cleansing  
**Caustic-** intense use of sarcasm; stinging, biting  
**Cheated**  
**Chilling**  
**Choleric-** hot-tempered, easily angered  
**Clinical-** analytical  
**Comic-** characteristic of, or having to do with comedy

**Compassionate**  
**Compelling-** to force, drive  
**Complicated-** containing intricately combined or involved parts  
**Complimentary—**favorable  
**Conciliatory-** appease  
**Condescending--**showing superiority  
**Confidence**  
**Confused**  
**Consistent**  
**Contemplative-** studying, thinking, reflecting on an issue  
**Contemptuous--** scornful  
**Contentious-** argumentative  
**Conventional-** lacking spontaneity, originality, and individuality  
**Convincing**  
**Critical-** finding fault  
**Cruel**  
**Cynical-** questions the basic sincerity and goodness of people  
**Deceitful-** dishonest  
**Depraved-** morally corrupt  
**Depressing**  
**Derision-** scorn, ridicule  
**Derisive-** ridiculing, mocking  
**Desolate-** dreary, deserted, barren  
**Despair**  
**Desultory--**off the major idea, wandering  
**Devil-may-care**  
**Didactic-** instructive  
**Direct-** to manage or conduct the affairs of, regulate  
**Disappointment**  
**Disbelief**  
**Disdainful-** scornful  
**Disenchanted-** free from illusion or false belief  
**Disgust**  
**Dispassionate--**unaffected, logical  
**Distressed-** strained, with anxiety  
**Dogmatic--**authoritative, assertive, arrogant  
**Doubt**  
**Downtrodden**  
**Dread**  
**Dreary-** a gray shadow is cast upon thoughts  
**Ebullience-** intense enthusiasm  
**Egalitarian-** equality  
**Elation-** joy  
**Elegiac--**expressing sorrow  
**Embittered**  
**Emotional**

**Emphatic-** forceful and definite in expression or action  
**Endearing-** inspiring affection or warm sympathy  
**Epiphany**  
**Ernest-** intense, a sincere state of mind  
**Erudite-** learned, polished, scholarly  
**Ecstatic-** jumping up and down with joy  
**Ethnic--**radical, cultural  
**Eulogizing-** to praise highly in speech or writing  
**Euphoric-** extremely happy, overjoyed  
**Exasperated-** angry, impatient  
**Facetious-** playful, humorous  
**Fanciful-** using the imagination  
**Fatalistic--** deadly, pessimistic  
**Fervent-** greatly emotional, zealous  
**Flirtatious**  
**Florid-** ornate, flowery  
**Foreboding-** ominous  
**Forthright-** directly frank without hesitation  
**Galling--** causing exasperation  
**Gloomy-** darkness, sadness, rejection  
**Gothic-** dark  
**Grandiose-** great, pompous  
**Gratified**  
**Haughty-** proud and vain to the point of arrogance  
**Having levity--**humor  
**Heartache**  
**Hopeful**  
**Hopeless**  
**Hostility**  
**Hubris-** arrogant presumption or pride  
**Humorous**  
**Hypnotic--**intriguing, trance-like  
**Immense sadness and anger**  
**Impertinent-** irrelevant  
**Incongruous--**not coinciding, disharmonious  
**Incredulous-** skeptical, disbelieving  
**Indifference**  
**Indignant-** marked by anger, aroused by injustice  
**Informal**  
**Informational**  
**Informative**  
**Intimate-** very familiar  
**Introspective-** examining own sensory and perceptual experiences  
**Ironic--**showing the unexpected or opposite effect  
**Irritated-** annoyed  
**Jovial-** happy

**Joy**

**Judgmental-** judging others, critical

**Lackadaisical-** lazy

**Laudatory-** expressing or conferring praise

**Lethargic-** sleepy

**Lighthearted-** happy, carefree

**Loathing--**abhorring, dislike

**Lofty-** arrogant

**Longing**

**Lugubrious--**dismal, mournful

**Lyrical-** emotional, full of images, song-like

**Macabre-** about death

**Malevolent-** mean, angry, purposefully hateful

**Malicious-** purposefully hurtful, very mean

**Matter of fact-** truthful, accepting of conditions, straightforward

**Meditative**

**Melancholy-** sad

**Menacing**

**Mischievous-** playing tricks for fun

**Mocking-** scornful, ridiculing, making fun of someone

**Morose-** gloomy, sullen, surly, despondent

**Mournful**

**Moving**

**Mystical**

**Negative-** unhappy, pessimistic

**Nervous-** worried

**Neutral-** neither good nor bad

**Nostalgic-** thinking about the past, wishing for something from the past

**Objective-** without prejudice, without discrimination, fair

**Obsequious-** polite and obedient in order to gain something

**Ominous**

**Optimistic-** hopeful, cheerful

**Passionate**

**Patient-** willing to wait

**Patronizing--**condescending

**Pedantic--**patty, ostentatious, unimaginative

**Pensive-** thinking, thoughtful

**Perfunctory-** threatening, ominous

**Perplexed-** confused, puzzled

**Persuasive-** trying to convince

**Pessimistic-** seeing the worst side of things

**Pious-** extremely reverent, devout

**Pity**

**Placid-** calm, peaceful, serene

**Plaintive-** expressing sorrow

**Poetic-** expressing beautiful thoughts or words

**Pompous--arrogant, self-important**

**Powerful**

**Proud- full of pride in something, thinking that something is better than others**

**Pungent-- sharp, penetrating appeal to the senses**

**Quizzical- questioning, eccentric, odd, amusing**

**Rage**

**Rancorous- marked with deep-seated hatred**

**Reflective- illustrating innermost thoughts and emotions**

**Reflective- thoughtful, meditative, thinking**

**Regal**

**Regret- feeling bad about the past**

**Rejection**

**Relaxed- not worried or busy**

**Relieved- done being worried**

**Remorseful- very sad, sorrowful, regretful**

**Reproving- disapproval**

**Resigned- given up**

**Respect**

**Reticent- reserved, reluctant**

**Reverent--having deep respect**

**Ribald- offensive in speech or gesture**

**Ridiculing- slightly contemptuous banter, making fun of**

**Rude- not polite**

**Saccharine- excessively sweet**

**Sadness- unhappy**

**Sanguineness- optimistic, cheerful**

**Sarcastic- sneering**

**Sardonic- scornful, very sarcastic**

**Satirical--ridiculing, ironic**

**Sensual**

**Sentimental-- maudlin, affectedly emotional**

**Serious- not funny, not joking**

**Sincere- honest, truthful, earnest**

**Skeptical-- questioning, doubting**

**Snobbish- aching as though one is better than everyone else**

**Solemn- sad or quiet reflection**

**Solicitous- anxious, concerned**

**Solitude- loneliness**

**Somber--dark, gloomy, serious**

**Soporific--causing sleep, soothing or drill**

**Sorrowful and anguished**

**Stern**

**Stiff- formal, serious**

**Straightforward- direct, honest**

**Stubborn- refusing to give in**

**Stuffy**

**Supercilious-- lofty pride, arrogant**  
**Surprised- startled, amazed**  
**Suspense- wondering what will happen next**  
**Sympathetic-- favoring, expressing sorrow**  
**Tearful- sad**  
**Tenderness**  
**Tense- nervous**  
**Tenuous- flimsy, weak**  
**Thankful- grateful, giving thanks**  
**Theatrical--dramatic**  
**Threatening--imposing harm**  
**Timorous- timid, fearful**  
**Tolerant- accepting of others**  
**Tongue-in-Cheek-- ironic, facetious, sarcastic**  
**Tortured- torment**  
**Tragic- very sad**  
**Tranquil**  
**Troubled**  
**Unbiased**  
**Unhappy**  
**Uplifting**  
**Urgent- insistent**  
**Vain- lacking substance or worth**  
**Vehement- feel strongly, passionately**  
**Vexation- annoyance**  
**Vicious**  
**Vindictive- revengeful**  
**Vivacious- full of animation and spirit**  
**Wary- watchful**  
**Whimsical- playful, funny, odd**  
**Wistful- full of wishful yearning**  
**Witty**  
**Yearning**