

THE HINDU

Editorial Analysis

BANK/SSC/UPSC/STATE EXAMS

Diwali Special



LIVE | 07:30 AM



Shine like sparkles, glow like candles and burn all the negativity like crackles. Wish you all a very lovely & cheerful Diwali

Happy Diwali





Tones of Reading Comprehension

Tone of the article shows or conveys the author's attitude and emotions towards the subject or the situation. There are mainly 3 types of tones used:

1. Positive: The tone of a given part of the content can be recognised by identifying certain typical words. If words like, 'fortunately', 'luckily', 'amazingly enough', 'optimistic', 'reverent/respected' or the like are used, they would imply a very positive tone.

Depending on the attitude of the author, one can describe the tone as 'euphemistic', 'laudatory', 'nostalgic', 'commiserating', 'ethical', 'apologetic', 'humorous', 'satirical', 'motivating', 'romantic' etc.



2. Negative:

If the author uses words like 'pessimistic', 'ironic', 'ridiculous', etc., his tone is likely to be negative. This means an unfavorable attitude is indicative of a negative tone. Specifically, the tone can be 'sarcastic', 'vitriolic', 'dogmatic', 'cynical', 'derisive', 'contemptuous', 'incendiary', 'aggressive', 'acerbic', 'obsequious', 'vituperative', 'caustic', 'belligerent' etc.

3. Neutral:

The use of words like 'Detached', 'Matter-of-fact' and 'candid' indicates a neutral, unbiased tone. This is generally used for compositions where facts are being stated or where information is being given. Specifically, tones that are neutral include 'apathetic', 'technical etc.



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.



Emotional

While narrating an incident/event/story, the author uses an emotional tone of writing in order to portray the feelings regarding the same.

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



All registered cyclists have passed an examination covering traffic rules and safety. Those interested in the new BikeShare Program must register their bicycles and provide a major credit card to ensure payment. Call 555-1212 for more information.

IDENTIFY THE TONE OF THE PASSAGE:

- (A) Argumentative
- (B) Sentimental
- (C) Idealistic
- (D) Informative
- (E) Caustic

Answer: D Informative



On hot summer nights his family drove to the local ice cream stand, where, for just a few minutes, nothing mattered but the cold, sweet treat. No dessert, before or since, was as delicious as a double-dip cone eaten while he balanced on a log behind the parking lot.

IDENTIFY THE TONE OF THE PASSAGE:

- (A) Nostalgic
- (B) Biting
- (C) Irreverent
- (D) Cynical
- (E) Satirical

Answer: A nostalgic



Read the passage and answer the question

A sanctuary may be defined as a place where Man is passive and the rest of Nature active. Till quite recently, let me tell you, Nature had her own sanctuaries, where man either did not go at all or only as a tool using animal in comparatively small numbers. But now, in this machinery age, there is no place left where a man cannot go with overwhelming forces at his command. He can strangle to death all the nobler wildlife in the world today. There is not the slightest doubt that birds and mammals are now being killed off much faster than they can breed. And it is always the largest and noblest forms of life that suffer most. The whales and elephants, lions and eagles, go. The rats and flies, and all mean parasites, remain. This is inevitable in certain cases. The civilized man begins by destroying the very forms of wildlife he learns to appreciate most when he becomes still more civilized.



I have just defined a sanctuary as a place where man is passive and the rest of Nature active. The mere fact that man has to protect a sanctuary does away with his purely passive attitude. Then, he can be beneficially active by destroying pests and parasites, like bot-flies or mosquitoes, and by finding antidotes for diseases like the epidemic which periodically kills off the rabbits and thus starves many of the carnivores to death. But, except in cases where the experiment has proved his intervention to be beneficial, the less he upsets the balance of Nature the better, even when he tries to be an earthly Providence.

WHAT WILL THE TONE OF THE AUTHOR?

1. Descriptive

3. Humorous

2. Narrative

4. Sarcastic

5. None of these

