

1 TONE EXERCISES

B For each passage, choose the word that best describes its tone. Circle, mark, etc. your "evidence."

1. **The Idiot** - Dostoyevsky
 "There were always children there, and I spent all my time with the children, only with the local school. I was simply with them mostly, and I spent all my four years like that. I did not want anything else."

A) comic (B) reflective (C) reverent (D) remorseful

C 2. **Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency** - Douglas Adams
 Time passed. Susan waited. The more Susan waited, the more the doorbell didn't ring. Or the phone. She looked at her watch. She felt that now was about the time that she could legitimately begin to feel cross. She was cross already, of course, but that had been in her own time, so to speak. They were well and truly into his time now, and even allowing for traffic, mishaps, and general vagueness and dilatoriness, it was now well over half an hour past the time that he had insisted was the latest time they could possibly afford to ~~leave~~ so she'd better be ready.

A) apprehensive (B) elegiac (C) disdainful (D) threatening

3. **"Happy Thought"** - Robert Louis Stevenson
 The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

A) bantering (B) simpering (C) peevish (D) amused

4. **Angela's Ashes** - Frank McCourt
 "Look at what he did. Thru up his First Communion breakfast. Thru up the body and blood learned of Jesus. I have God in me backyard. What am I goin' to do? I'll take him to the Jesuits for they know the sins of the Pope himself."

A) playful (B) blasphemous (C) blasphemous (D) blasphemous

5. **"A Hunger Artist"** - Kafka
 The hunger artist sometimes remarked to himself that perhaps things might look a little brighter if he were not located quite so near the stables. But he did not dare complain to the management; after all he had the animals to thank for the numerous visitors who did pass his cage, among whom there always might be the one who was there just to see him, and lord knew where they might tuck him away if he called attention to his existence and thereby to the fact that, strictly speaking, he was no more than an obstacle in the path to the animals.

A) detached (B) persuasive (C) sympathetic (D) disdainful

6. **Fathers and Sons** - Turgenev
 No crowd of serfs ran out on to the steps to meet the masters; a little girl of twelve years made her appearance alone. After her there came out of the house a young lad, very like Piotr, dressed in a gray livery, with white armorial buttons, the servant of Pavel Petrovitch Kirsanov. Without speaking, he opened the door of the carriage, and unbuttoned the apron of the coach. Nikolai Petrovitch, with his son and Bazaryov, walked through a dark and empty hall.

A) reflective (B) urgent (C) somber (D) apprehensive

2 ANSWERS

7. **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** - Kesey
 She tells them right back in a loud, brassy voice that he's already plenty damn clean, thank you. "They showered me this morning at the courthouse and last night at the jail. And I swear I believe they'd of washed my ears for me on the taxi over if they coulda found the facilities. Hoo boy, seems like every time they ship me someplace I gotta get scrubbed down before, after, and during the operation--and get back away from me with that thermometer, Sam."

A) disappointed (B) condescending (C) amused (D) audacious

8. **"God is Love"** - Browning
 God is love; his mercy brightens
 All the path in which we rove;
 Bliss he wakes and woe he lightens;
 God is wisdom, God is love.

A) pedantic (B) simpering (C) reverent (D) detached

9. **"Polish War Song"** - Perceval
 Freedom calls you! Quick, be ready-
 Rouse ye in the name of God,
 Onward, onward, strong and steady,
 Dash to earth the oppressor's rod.
 Freedom calls, ye brave!
 Rise-and-spare the name of slave.

A) provocative (B) mock-heroic (C) somber (D) ominous

10. **"The Three Little Pigs"** - Politically Correct Bedtime Stories - James Flan Garner
 At the house of sticks, the wolf again banged on the door and shouted, "Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" At this, the wolf chuckled condescendingly. He thought to himself: "They are so childlike in their ways. It will be a shame to see them go, but progress cannot be stopped."

A) urgent (B) satiric (C) bantering (D) mock-heroic

11. **For Whom the Bell Tolls** - Hemingway
 "Afterwards we will be as one animal of the forest and be so close that neither one can tell that one of us is one and not the other. Can you not feel my heart for your heart?"

A) somber (B) urgent (C) factual (D) intimate

12. **The Adventure of the Speckled Band** - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 "My attention was speedily drawn, as I have already remarked to you, to this ventilator, and to the bell-rope which hung down to the bed. The discovery that this was a dummy, and that the bed was clamped to the floor, instantly gave rise to the suspicion that the rope was there as a bridge for something passing through the hole, and coming to the bed. The idea of a snake instantly occurred to me, and when I coupled it with my knowledge that the doctor was furnished with a supply of creatures from India, I felt I was probably on the right track. The idea of using a form of poison which could not possibly be discovered by any chemical test was just such a one as would occur to a clever and ruthless man-who-had had an Eastern training."

A) pedantic (B) sardonic (C) reverent (D) detached

intrepidly
 dauntless
 bold
 rash

Wally - Key

Sardonic

derisively
 Mocking
 Sarcashtic
 an extreme

ominous

ridiculing or hurleaving heroic style/satire

provoking, excite, stimulate

mock-heroic

intimate

detached

bantering

mock-heroic

intimate

intimate

detached

detached

detached

detached

More ->

A

13. Dave Barry's Greatest Hits - Barry

You never found out why these men spend so much time shaking hands (in beer commercials). Maybe shaking hands is just their simple straightforward burly masculine American patriotic way of saying to each other: "Floyd, I am truly sorry I drank all that beer last night and went to the bathroom in your glove compartment."

- A) bantering B) sympathetic C) intimate D) disdainful

D

14. Cannery Row - Steinbeck

Henri the painter was not French and his name was not Henri. Henri had so steeped himself in stories of the Left Bank in Paris that he lived there although he had never been there. Feverishly he followed in the footsteps of the Dadaist movements and schisms, the strangely feminine jealousies and religiousness, the obscurantisms of the forming and breaking schools. Regularly he revolted against outworn techniques and materials. One season he threw out perspective. Another year he abandoned red, even as the mother of purple. Finally he gave up paint entirely. It was not known whether Henri was a good painter or not for he threw himself so violently into movements that he had little time left for painting of any kind.

- A) reverent B) apprehensive C) regretful D) amused

B

15. Kink - Davies

But I felt after the novelty had worn off the Americans didn't really understand our music or our culture. Coming from a country where having central heating was considered posh and a refrigerator a luxury.

Americans seemed to me to be strangely spoiled and 'old-fashioned'. They seemed to be lost in the forties and fifties. I expected to find Americans more forward and progressive but I was surprised to find many very set in their ways, just like their English counterparts.

- A) urgent B) disappointed C) sardonic D) detached

A

16. Catcher in the Rye - Salinger

So all of a sudden, I sort of leaned over and said, "Would any of you girls care to dance?" I didn't ask them crudely or anything. Very suave, in fact. But God damn it, they thought that was a panic, too. They started giggling some more. I'm not kidding, they were three real morons.

- A) condescending B) persuasive C) amused D) audacious

C

17. Crime And Punishment - Dostoyevsky

He had not a minute more to lose. He pulled the axe quite out, swung it with both arms, scarcely conscious of himself, and almost without effort, almost mechanically, brought the blunt side down on her head. He seemed not to use his own strength in this. But as soon as he had once brought the axe down, his strength returned to him.

- A) apprehensive B) remorseful C) detached D) intimate

B

18. The Way Things Work - David Macaulay

The kind of nuclear reaction that happens inside a nuclear reactor is called nuclear fission. The fuel is uranium or plutonium, two very heavy elements which have many protons and neutrons in their nuclei. Fission starts when a fast-moving neutron strikes a nucleus. The nucleus cannot take in the extra neutron, and the whole nucleus breaks apart into two smaller nuclei.

- A) provocative B) factual C) detached D) pedantic

D

19. Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

"I am not made," I cried energetically, "the sun and the heavens, who have viewed my operations, can bear witness of my truth. I am the assassin of those most innocent victims; they died by my machinations. A thousand times would I have shed my own blood, drop by drop, to have saved their lives; but I could not, my father, indeed I could not sacrifice the whole human race."

- A) omniscient B) sardonic C) elegiac D) remorseful

D

20. Last of the Mohicans - James Fenimore Cooper

Six Delaware girls, with their long, dark, flowing tresses falling loosely across their bosoms, stood apart, and only gave proofs of their existence as they occasionally screwed sweet-scented herbs and forest flowers on a litter of fragrant plants, that, under a pall of Indian robes, supported all that now remained of the ardent, high-souled, and generous Cora. Her form was concealed in many wrappers of the same simple manufacture, and her face was shut forever from the gaze of men.

- A) elegiac B) apprehensive C) reverent D) provocative

A

21. Don Quixote - Cervantes

Don Quixote has just liberated a group of dangerous criminals.

"That is all very well," answered Don Quixote, "but I know what we should do now." Then he called all the galley slaves, who were now running hither and thither in a riotous mood and had stripped the commissary to the skin, and when they had gathered around him in a circle, he addressed them as follows: "It is the duty of well-bred people to be grateful for benefits received, and ingratitude is one of the most hateful sins in the eyes of God. I say this sir, because you know what favor you have received from me, and the only return I wish and demand is that you all go from here. laden with the chains from which I have just freed your necks, to the city of El Toboso. There you are to present yourselves before Lady Dulcinea of El Toboso and tell her that her Knight of the Rueful Figure sent you there to commend his service to her. You are to tell her, point by point, the details of this famous adventure, and when you have done this, you may then go whichever way you please and good luck be with you."

- A) mock-heroic B) detached C) urgent D) disdainful

D

22. "Send in the Clowns" - Sondheim

Just when I'd stopped opening doors, Finally knowing the one that I wanted was yours, Making my entrance again with my usual flair, Sure of my lines, No one is there. Don't you love farce? My fault, I fear. I thought that you'd want what I want. Sorry, my dear. But where are the clowns? Quick, send in the clowns. Don't bother, they're here.

- A) ominous B) satirical C) intimate D) regretful

B

23. Through the Looking-Glass - Carroll

They stood so still that she quite forgot they were alive, and she was just going round to see if "TWEEDLE" was written at the back of each collar, when she was startled by a voice coming from the one marked "DUM."

"If you think we're wax-works," he said, "you ought to pay, you know. Wax-works weren't made to be looked at for nothing."

- A) pedantic B) whimsical C) threatening D) sympathetic

B

24. "Freedom" - Reskin

You will send your child, will you, into a room where the table is loaded with sweet wine and fruit-some poisoned, some not?-you will say to him, "Choose freely, my little child! It is so good for you to have freedom of choice; it forms your character -your individuality! If you take the wrong cap or the wrong berry, you will die before the day is over, but you will have acquired the dignity of a free child."

- A) whimsical B) sardonic C) bantering D) sarcastic