

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 1

abhorrent

repugnant, repulsive, detestable, objectionable

cerebral

intellectual, rational, logical, academic, analytical

despondent

hopeless, dejected, downcast, glum

fawning

flattering, sycophantic, submissive, toadying

insolent

impudent, disrespectful, cheeky

mirthful

blithesome, jocose, joyful, merry, gleeful

Pollyannaish

cheerful, buoyant, upbeat, optimistic

serene

tranquil, unflustered, peaceful, calm

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 2

audacious

daring, bold, impudent, foolhardy, rash

consternated

dismayed, disquieted, anxious, concerned

eccentric

unconventional, peculiar, unusual, strange, outlandish

idealistic

unrealistic, romantic, optimistic, quixotic, impractical

jaded

cynical, dulled, bored, world-weary

obstinate

adamant, stubborn, inflexible, mulish, tenacious

remorseful

rueful, repentant, contrite, penitent

upbraiding

scolding, reproachful, chastising, rebuking

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 3

acerbic

caustic, bitter, barbed, biting

chagrined

mortified, embarrassed, vexed, unsettled

detached

aloof, disinterested, indifferent, impassive

fervent

ardent, zealous, fanatical, impassioned

insular

isolated, limited, narrow-minded, reactionary

misanthropic

antisocial, reclusive, mistrustful, skeptical, derisive

pompous

pretentious, ostentatious, self-important, arrogant

sinister

malevolent, pernicious, threatening, malignant, baleful

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 4

callous

pitiless, heartless, uncaring, insensitive, cruel

defiant

disobedient, insolent, rebellious, insubordinate

exultant

jubilant, triumphant, elated, thrilled

indomitable

unconquerable, invincible, resolute, determined

methodical

systematic, technical, precise, logical, exact

piqued

annoyed, irked, irritated, resentful

sardonic

scornful, derisive, mocking, mordant

wistful

pensive, thoughtful, longing, reflective, contemplative

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 5

acquiescent

passive, compliant, submissive, yielding, conceding

choleric

irritable, irascible, fiery, hot-tempered

deterministic

destined, fated, preordained, doomed

funereal

somber, grave, glum, sullen, saturnine

intransigent

uncompromising, intractable, unyielding

mordant

caustic, acerbic, scathing, sarcastic

portentous

ominous, fateful, crucial, awe-inspiring

solemn

austere, grave, serious, somber, glum, cheerless

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 6

bristled

annoyed, indignant, riled, irritated

credulous

gullible, naïve, unsuspecting, trusting

enervated

languid, indolent, lethargic

inane

ridiculous, mindless, frivolous, empty

menacing

threatening, ominous, frightening, endangering

rancorous

bitter, vengeful, pitiless, unforgiving

tenacious

resolute, obstinate, persistent, determined

zealous

passionate, fervent, ardent, fanatical

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 7

austere

stern, strict, severe, rigorous

covetous

envious, jealous, resentful

elegiac

mournful, plaintive, lamenting, gloomy, morose

haughty

arrogant, conceited, proud, pompous

keen

perceptive, insightful, observant, discerning, sharp

obsequious

sycophantic, fawning, subservient, toadying

sanguine

confident, optimistic, positive, hopeful

whimsical

fanciful, capricious, quirky, compulsive, erratic

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 8

buoyant

cheerful, upbeat, optimistic, jaunty

condescending

patronizing, arrogant, pompous

dynamic

active, energetic, vibrant, vigorous

halcyon

untroubled, calm, peaceful, heavenly

ireful

furious, enraged, livid, fuming

paradoxical

abstruse, complex, perplexing, puzzling, recondite

rapturous

ecstatic, blissful, euphoric, elated

trepid

timorous, fearful, apprehensive, nervous

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 9

averse

repugnant, disinclined, loath, reluctant

cowering

shrinking, cringing, recoiling, trembling

exasperated

annoyed, infuriated, maddened, incensed, irritated

indolent

slothful, idle, lethargic, sluggish

mendacious

untruthful, misleading, deceptive, unreliable

petulant

cantankerous, insolent, ill-humored, peevish

sapient

sagacious, wise, insightful, discerning

vivacious

lively, spirited, effervescent, animated

AP English Literature and Composition Tone Vocabulary 10

altruistic

unselfish, humane, philanthropic

capricious

impulsive, unpredictable, whimsical, erratic

empathic

compassionate, kindhearted, considerate

imperious

domineering, commanding, overbearing, arrogant

maudlin

sentimental, mawkish, self-pitying, overemotional, weepy

provincial

unsophisticated, simple, unpolished, unrefined

secular

worldly, temporal, material, lay

vehement

fervent, vigorous, intense, heated, passionate