

Shifting Tones Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. In Dialogue B, Liam's tone becomes more casual and carefree, showing confidence or indifference instead of determination.
2. Noah's expression adds a tone of acceptance and humor instead of simple sympathy.
3. Ben's expression adds a tone of renewal and optimism rather than formality.

Teacher's Guide

Skill Focus: Students learn how **expressions influence tone** and emotion in conversation, developing skills in **figurative interpretation** and **pragmatic reading**.

Teaching Tips:

- **Warm-Up Discussion:** Ask students to read the same neutral line ("I can't believe it!") with different tones—excited, angry, sarcastic—to model how tone changes meaning.
- **Context Clues:** Emphasize that tone often depends on situation and choice of expression. Have students justify each interpretation with clues from dialogue.
- **Group Practice:** In pairs, students can rewrite a short dialogue using new expressions to shift the tone (e.g., serious → playful).
- **Differentiation:**
 - Provide sentence frames for emerging learners ("This tone sounds more ___ because...").
 - Encourage advanced students to explore subtle shifts (e.g., from sympathetic to dismissive).
- **Extension Idea:** Assign a creative writing mini-task—students craft two short dialogues expressing the same idea but with completely different tones using varied expressions.