

Transform the Tone Answer Key

Sample Responses (many possible answers; teacher should allow flexibility):

Sentence 1

- Positive tone: The restaurant was **cozy**, the food was **affordable**, and the staff was **friendly**.
- Negative tone: The restaurant was **cramped**, the food was **cheap-looking**, and the staff was **chatty**.

Sentence 2

- Positive tone: The student was **self-assured**, his essay was **unique**, and his ideas were **inquisitive**.
- Negative tone: The student was **arrogant**, his essay was **weird**, and his ideas were **nosy**.

Teacher Notes / Guide:

- Stress that answers may vary; what matters is whether students can *justify the connotative shift*.
- Encourage students to read both versions aloud. Tone often “feels” clearer when spoken.
- Extension idea: Have students write their own short paragraph with underlined neutral words, then swap with a partner to rewrite using connotation shifts.
- This activity helps students see how **connotation influences tone and mood**, which is critical in persuasive and creative writing.