

# A defiant tone

## Exercise 12

incredulous	not willing to believe
dumbfounded	to strike someone dumb with amazement
astounded	to overcome with amazement
flabbergasted	greatly surprised
defiant	daring challenge to authority or opposing force
antagonistic	acting in opposition
intimidating	frightening in order to force someone into doing something
inflammatory	easily set on fire; kindling passion or anger



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### Free gawking

THE owner of the Tree Hotel has every right to ban heterosexuals and lesbians.

Heterosexuals can go to any other hotel they like, so why do they need to hang out at the Tree Hotel as well? The Tree's manager, Tom McFeely, says he got the exemption after complaints from gays that they felt like zoo animals.

That's exactly how we feel at times. For us regulars, it's obvious that people just come to gawk and guffaw. Some call us fags and spit, while others yell abuse at us and tell us to "get a life".

At least now we've got a place to go where we feel safe and relaxed. We can escape the stares and insults from the tuff guys. There are 2000 venues where heterosexuals can go so why do they want to come to the Tree? Obviously, they're miffed because they're excluded for once in their lives. Let's face it, everyone clicks with their own kind. Go look at the city. Almost every culture sticks to itself.

And we're not the only ones seeking exemptions. Fernwood Fitness Club restricts membership to women. Muslim women may exclude non-Muslims from sessions at public pools. Go gawk at them!



1. What are Troy's views on the Tree Hotel?

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2. Give three examples of Troy's use of colloquial language and its tone. Explain its purpose.

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(ii) .....

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## Exercise 12: Free gawking (p. 22)

1. Troy believes that the owner of the Tree House has every right to insist on an exclusively same-sex club. This is because people come to stare at and mock them. He also believes that people are more comfortable among those of their own group who have similar views, values, behaviour and attitudes.

- ◆ In an upstanding (and outraged) tone, Troy defends the hotel's policy on the grounds that gays and lesbians need to be protected from the taunts of others.
- ◆ Defensively, he justifies the policy on the grounds that "normal" people have plenty of choice; contrastingly, "gays" have very limited choice.
- ◆ Self-righteously, he also refers to other similar measures by "exclusive" clubs like Fernwood Fitness Club.
- ◆ He also adopts a candid tone to reveal his typical feelings of pain and suffering as a "zoo animal".
- ◆ He uses an aggrieved tone, when he suggests that they feel like "zoo animals". (He uses such a tone to reflect the depth of his feeling.)
- ◆ He is ardent/fervent about their right to a policy of exclusion.
- ◆ Ardently, he seeks to justify the ban on the grounds that "everyone clicks with their own kind"
- ◆ He uses a censorious tone to refer to the fact that gays are being singled out for unfair treatment
- ◆ He uses an outraged and informal tone as well as colloquial labels such as "fags" who are the subject of "gawking" to reflect his displeasure and dismay at their unfair treatment.
- ◆ In a defensive/(an aggrieved) tone, Troy juxtaposes the exclusionary policies at the Tree Hotel with those at the Fernwood Fitness Centre to suggest that there is a need to protect the specific interests of particular groups.



### Colloquial elements include:

- ◆ Troy uses a colloquial tone to criticise the patrons who only come to humiliate the gay community.
- ◆ "For us regulars, it is obvious that people come to stare at and mock us. Some people call us offensive names such as "fags" and they spit"
- ◆ People come to "gawk and guffaw"
- ◆ We can escape the insults of the "tuff guys"
- ◆ "Go look at the city." and "Go gawk at them."
- ◆ Defensively and emotively, he refers to the fact that they are treated as "animals in the zoo" to show the depth of their humiliating treatment.

## Exercise 13: "Let's go green sensibly"

### The Editor (Herald Sun)

- ◆ *diplomatic; prudent; measured; cautious; civil; logical; sensible and forthright*

The editor adopts a diplomatic tone to suggest that the government must encourage citizens to be socially responsible.

The editor bluntly disparages the plastic bag as a "petroleum-baed nuisance" in an attempt to dissuade people