

# An "I-know-best" tone

assertive	confident and positive
authoritative	having or showing power or an ability to control
dogmatic	saying what you think very forcefully and expecting others to accept it as true (peremptory)
emphatic	uttered with emphasis, strongly expressive
adamant	staying firm in what you decide
forthright	straight to the point; outspoken; direct; straightforward
dispassionate	unbiased, not affected by your personal feelings or bias



I know and you don't

A need for a level playing ground.

## Girls need a fair game

While I can sympathise with Jack Brimbank, the 13-year old boy (of 185 centimetres) from Banyule who wants to play netball, there is a good case to uphold the Association's ban.

It's a pity that there is not a parallel boy's competition; however in its absence, Jack should not be allowed to join the girls' team.

Although the decision might seem sexist, we need to keep in mind that girls have the right to a level playing field, too. Clearly there are differences between genders at such a tender age and the inclusion of a boy would change the dynamics of the game. Many girls will feel threatened and it will give some teams an unfair advantage.

Quite seriously, such a plan would discourage women from playing and would just hand over the competition to the (tall) men. We must also respect the girls' sensitivities as they go through puberty. Even Joanne Smith, the head coach of our rival team St Eva's of Nobledean, said that when a boy is present on the court, the girls "think they have to modify their behaviour". In other words, the girls are thrown off their game.

**Ms Helen Tanmount, netball coach, Black Rock Netball Association.**

*Explain Ms Ms Tanmount's views and give examples of her tone. Use quotes, and make sure they fit suit the grammar of your sentence.*

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# 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



Online at [freedmpress.com](http://freedmpress.com)

June 18, 2014



## 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!

**Troy, Posted 3.10**

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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(iii) .....

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## Exercise 10: A useless trip

Reproachfully, Ms Hang criticises the Department’s handling of the refugee’s status.

Adopting a peremptory tone, Ms Hang believes that the Department treats Mr Adhmid with contempt. She states that he is treated like “vegetable scraps” .

The author’s blunt reference to the “vegetable scraps” implies that the Department is treating Mr Adhmid in a shameful (disgraceful, or disdainful) manner.

Ms Ching compares the way the Department treats Mr Ahmid with the way people treat “a piece of unwanted garbage”.

## Exercise 11: Girls need a fair game” by Ms Helen Tanmount

Ms Tanmount states that boys should continue to be banned from joining the girls’ netball team. She asserts that girls have the right to a “level playing field” and the inclusion of boys will disrupt the dynamics of the game.

Dogmatically (Peremptorily), she believes that the inclusion of boys would simply “hand over the competition to the (tall) men”.

Impartially, Ms Tanmounts understands Jack Brimbank’s complaint and desire to be included.

Adopting a dispassionate stance, Ms Tanmount agrees that Jack Brimbank has the right to play netball in a “parallel competition”.

Ms Tanmount adamantly advises netball officials against including boys in the girls’ competition on the grounds that it would jeopardise the girls’ right to a fair playing field.

In a self-assured manner, Ms Tanmount defends the girls’ rights to an exclusive competition.

- ◆ “Jack should not be allowed”: assertive; adamant; forceful.
- ◆ “It’s a pity that there is not a parallel boy’s competition”: sympathetic;
- ◆ “the decision might seem sexist” : defensive and reasonable.

As a netball coach, Ms Tanmount shares her professional opinion with readers and impresses upon them the need for parallel competitions so that the girls will not be penalised by the unreasonable height of some boys.

Candidly, Ms Tanmount relies on the real life example of Jack Brimbank to prove that he would have an unfair advantage thus eliciting feelings of frustration and anger in her target audience. The author describes the girls as unfairly disadvantaged and thus arouses sympathy for their plight as the underdog. (“feel threatened”). The author wishes to guard against a competition that would perversely favour the boys in a traditional female sport.

In a high-minded manner, Ms Tanmount believes that both genders have the right to a fair playing field. Girls should not suffer from an “unfair” situation. (Accordingly, Ms Tanmount appeals to values such as equal opportunity and justice to ensure that the girls received a “level playing field”. She implies that it is unfair to discriminate against the girls who would feel intimidated and threatened.



## Exercise 12: Free gawking

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, Troy justifies the policy on the grounds that "normal" people have plenty of choice; contrastingly, "gays" have very limited choice.
- ◆ Self-righteously, Troy also refers to other similar measures by "exclusive" clubs like Fernwood Fitness Club.
- ◆ Troy also adopts a candid tone to reveal his typical feelings of pain and suffering as a "zoo animal".
- ◆ Troy 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.)
- ◆ Troy is ardent/ferveat about their right to a policy of exclusion.
- ◆ Ardently, the blogger seeks to justify the ban on the grounds that "everyone clicks with their own kind"
- ◆ The author uses a censorious tone to refer to the fact that gays are being singled out for unfair treatment
- ◆ Troy 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. (to juxtapose: to place side by side)



### 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, Troy 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-based nuisance" in an attempt to dissuade people