

CLASS 05

Tone — Disapproving Six Cousins, One Family

Continuation of the Tones series · Part 3

CN · CR · DS · DN · IN · SK

WHAT THIS CLASS DOES

- 1 Define the 6 cousins of disapproval
- 2 Build a cue-word checklist for each
- 3 Drill the four most-confused pairs
- 4 Walk through 8 CLAT-style 2- and 3-liners
- 5 50-Q in-class practice + answer key

RECAP & TODAY

Where we are in the Tones series

Class 03 set up Critical · Class 04 covered Analytical + Appreciative · Today: Disapproving.

LAST CLASS

Analytical + Appreciative

Two whole families. Cool prose vs warm prose. The author either dissects or approves.

Anchor cousins: AN · DI · EX · ME · DP | AP · LA · RE · CE

TODAY

Disapproving Family

Six cousins. The widest family — moral, analytical, casual, public, emotional, doubting.

Anchor cousins: CN · CR · DS · DN · IN · SK

THE FAMILY

Disapproving — the author is against

"All six cousins reject, condemn, or doubt. The question is only — how, and how hard."

RANGE

Moral judgement → casual dismissal → public attack → emotional outrage → reasoned doubt.

DECISION

Decide the family first (against?).
Then the cousin (which flavour?).

MOST CONFUSED

CN vs DN · IN vs DN · DS vs SK · CR vs everything else.

CN

COUSIN

Censorious

Moral fault-finding — judges character

COUSIN · CN

Censorious — moral fault-finding

Strongly criticises someone or something for moral or behavioural faults. Sounds judgemental, fault-finding.

CUE WORDS

immoral · improper · irresponsible · disgraceful · unethical · indefensible · hypocritical

EXAMPLE

The minister's extravagant lifestyle during a national crisis reflects shocking insensitivity.

CONTRAST

Critical = analytical examination of flaws. Censorious = moral condemnation of behaviour.

CR

COUSIN

Critical

Analytical fault-finding — judges argument

COUSIN · CR

Critical — analytical fault-finding

Carefully points out weaknesses, errors, or limitations in an argument, policy, or idea.

CUE WORDS

however · although · limitation · flaw · inadequate · overlooks · gaps · uneven

EXAMPLE

While the scheme improved access, its implementation remained uneven across rural regions.

CONTRAST

Critical is reasoned and balanced. Many academic editorials are critical without anger.

MOST-CONFUSED PAIR

CN vs CR — moral verdict vs analytical fault

The same passage about a failing policy can become CN or CR depending on the verbs.

DIMENSION	CN · Censorious	CR · Critical
Target	Character of the actor	Argument / policy itself
Verbs	Indefensible · irresponsible · hypocritical	Overlooks · inadequate · uneven
Mood	Morally judging	Reasoned, often even-handed

“

The censorious sentence judges a person. The critical sentence judges an argument. Read which one is on trial.

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DS

COUSIN

Dismissive

Brushes aside as trivial

COUSIN · DS

Dismissive — casual rejection

Rejects an idea, concern or argument as unimportant, weak, or unworthy of attention.

CUE WORDS

merely · trivial · exaggerated · "seasonal" · unworthy · brushed aside · staged · empty rhetoric

EXAMPLE

Officials dismissed the environmental warnings as exaggerated fears.

CONTRAST

Dismissive ignores or brushes aside; Contemptuous openly disrespects.

D

COUSIN

Denunciatory

Public condemnation of the wrong

COUSIN · DN

Denunciatory — open condemnation

Openly condemns or attacks something as wrong, unjust or unacceptable. Public, moral attack on the wrong itself.

CUE WORDS

condemn · denounce · assault on · violation · betrayal · authoritarian · oppressive · unacceptable

EXAMPLE

The article denounces the exploitation of migrant workers as a violation of human dignity.

CONTRAST

Denunciatory attacks the wrong. Indignant expresses anger toward the wrong.

IN

COUSIN

Indignant

Emotional anger at injustice

COUSIN · IN

Indignant — moral anger

Expresses anger or annoyance caused by perceived injustice, unfairness, or insult.

CUE WORDS

outrage · injustice · appalling · shameful · disgraceful · unfair · callous · cannot be justified

EXAMPLE

The author is indignant about the continued neglect of undertrial prisoners.

CONTRAST

The IN sentence carries the author's emotional pulse; the DN sentence carries the author's verdict.

MOST-CONFUSED PAIR

IN vs DN — anger vs condemnation

Both are 'hot' families. The pivot is whether the writer's feeling or the writer's judgement is in the foreground.

DIMENSION	IN · Indignant	DN · Denunciatory
Centre	Writer's emotion	Verdict on the act
Signals	Outrage · appalling · shameful	Condemns · betrayal · assault on
Test	Can you feel the writer's pulse?	Is the writer giving a public verdict?

SK

COUSIN

Sceptical

Doubts the claim

COUSIN · SK

Sceptical — doubt

Shows doubt regarding the truth, effectiveness, sincerity, or validity of something.

CUE WORDS

doubtful · uncertain · unconvinced · questionable · remains to be seen · claims · alleged · promises

EXAMPLE

Economists remain sceptical about whether the reforms will reduce unemployment.

CONTRAST

DS brushes off; SK engages and doubts. The SK author cares enough to ask.

MOST-CONFUSED PAIR

DS vs SK — brush-aside vs doubt

Both seem 'low-temperature'. The pivot is whether the author engages with the claim at all.

DIMENSION	DS · Dismissive	SK · Sceptical
Engagement	None — brushes off	Engages, then doubts
Mood	Casual, sometimes arrogant	Rational, careful
Signals	Merely · trivial · staged	Unconvinced · questionable · remains to be seen

TAKEAWAYS

Common student mistakes — read these once before the practice

- 1 Marking IN whenever there is anger — but the author may only be condemning, not angry (DN).
- 2 Marking CN for any criticism — CN needs a moral verdict on character, not just disapproval.
- 3 Confusing DS with SK — DS won't engage, SK engages and doubts.
- 4 Treating CR as 'mild disapproval' — CR is calm structural fault-finding, not soft anger.
- 5 Handing the quoted official's tone to the author — the author quotes 'unnecessary panic' to dismiss it.
- 6 Closing-sentence trap — re-read the last sentence twice. It usually carries the tone.

“

Family first. Cousin second. Most wrong answers are one cousin off — not a wrong family.

Method · CLAT Gurukul

QP-Q1

WALKTHROUGH

The editorial argues that the minister's lavish celebrations during the flood crisis displayed shocking insensitivity. The author suggests such conduct is morally indefensible.

A. Sceptical

B. Censorious

C. Dismissive

D. Critical

TRAP

Many will mark D. Critical because they see 'argues'. But 'morally indefensible' is a moral verdict on character — Critical does not moralise.

WORKING

Verbs to circle: 'shocking insensitivity', 'morally indefensible'.
Both are moral judgements on character → CN.

Q P-Q3

WALKTHROUGH

The spokesperson brushed aside concerns regarding air pollution as 'seasonal exaggeration.' The article highlights the government's refusal to engage seriously with experts.

A. Sceptical

B. Critical

C. Dismissive

D. Indignant

TRAP

Many will mark A. Sceptical because 'air pollution / engage with experts' sounds scientific. But the author is not doubting — they are recording a brush-off.

WORKING

Verbs to circle: 'brushed aside', 'refusal to engage seriously'.
The author reports a dismissal → DS.

QP-Q23

WALKTHROUGH

The passage expresses outrage at the persistent wage gap faced by women workers. The author argues that such inequality cannot be justified.

A. Critical

B. Sceptical

C. Indignant

D. Dismissive

TRAP

Many will mark A. Critical because 'argues' suggests reasoning. But 'expresses outrage... cannot be justified' is the writer's pulse, not a structural critique.

WORKING

Verbs to circle: 'outrage', 'cannot be justified'. Author's emotion is in the foreground → IN.

QP-Q43

WALKTHROUGH

The government's deliberate targeting of minority communities under the guise of national security is deeply alarming. Civil liberties organizations have condemned the measures as discriminatory and oppressive.

A. Denunciatory

B. Sceptical

C. Critical

D. Dismissive

TRAP

Some will mark C. Critical because 'civil liberties organizations' sounds analytical. But the language is public condemnation — 'discriminatory and oppressive' is a verdict.

WORKING

Verbs to circle: 'deeply alarming', 'condemned... discriminatory and oppressive'. Open condemnation of the wrong itself → DN.

KEEP GOING

After this lecture

1. Attempt the 50-Q practice sheet under 40 min, +1/-0 marking.
2. Compare against the answer key — read the cue word for every wrong.
3. Class 06 → Ironic family (IR · SA · SD).

HELPLINE / WHATSAPP

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Drop your doubt with a screenshot of the question.

NEXT CLASS

Class 06 — The Ironic Family

Ironic · Satirical · Sardonic — three cousins, intensity-ladder.

CN/CR/DS/DN/IN/SK in the bag → IR/SA/SD next.