Intonation
use of pitch to convey meaning

Functions:
• help listener understand
• keep listener interested

terminology
• tone: distinctive pitch movement
  use / \ ^ above or before syllable
• tonic syllable (nucleus): most prominent syllable; carries the tone
  underline
• tone unit (intonational phrase): group of words with one tone
  tone unit boundary = |

example
| the man at the ^front | is \wonderful |
neutral intonation for statements

1. *practiced*
2. *practiced*
3. *practiced*
4. *practiced*
5. *practiced*
6. *practiced*
7. *practiced*
8. *practiced*
9. *practiced*
10. *practiced*

typically:
• statements have falling tone
• tonic syllable is on last content word

but

• utterances do not always have neutral intonation
• tonic syllable can be on another word, for contrastive emphasis

practice : show expected intonation

1. John is my brother
2. he wrote a letter to Jane
3. but he didn't send it to her
4. he always too shy
5. he has been thinking about her
6. she doesn't know this
7. maybe I should tell her

tonic syllable

• most prominent syllable
• anchor point for tone
• not necessarily highest pitch

practice

1. my crocodile speaks English
2. my crocodile speaks English
3. my crocodile speaks English
4. my crocodile speaks English
5. my crocodile speaks English
6. my crocodile speaks English
7. my crocodile speaks English
8. my crocodile speaks English
pitch movement in the tail

- **tonic syllable**: where pitch movement begins
- **tail**: syllables after the tonic syllable

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my /\hampster/ likes Britney Spears

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my /*hamp*/ster likes Britney Spears

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my /*hamp*/ster likes Britney Spears

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practice

1. we love phonetics
2. we love phonetics
3. we love phonetics
4. we love phonetics
5. we love phonetics
6. we love phonetics
7. we love phonetics
8. we love phonetics

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Reading

- SoE 111 – 116