

AAE103

L15 : Intonation 1

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Intonation

use of pitch to convey meaning

Functions:

- help listener understand
- keep listener interested

examples

today is /Tuesday – question
today is \Tuesday – statement

terminology

- **tone** : distinctive pitch movement
use / \ ^v ^ 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 ^vfront | is \wonderful |

4 basic tones

- **fall** : final this is the \end
- **rise** : unfinished can you /help me
- **fall-rise** : uncertain I ^vmight do it today
- **rise-fall** : suggestive that's my ^teacher

also

- **level** : pause _erm

practice

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| 1. yes | 6. yes |
| 2. yes | 7. yes |
| 3. yes | 8. yes |
| 4. yes | 9. yes |
| 5. yes | 10. yes |

neutral intonation for statements

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

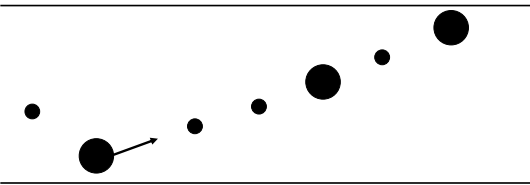
pitch movement in the tail

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

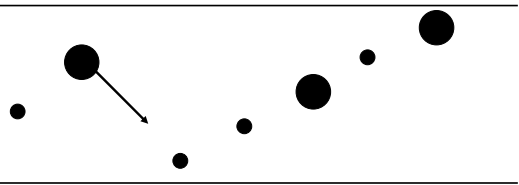
my \hampster likes Britney Spears



my /hampster likes Britney Spears



my ^vhampster likes Britney Spears



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

Reading

- SoE 111 – 116