

AAE103

L18 : Discourse Intonation

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practice

1. where does your teacher live
2. is it raining there
3. after I lost my purse I didn't look for it
4. you brought your credit card didn't you
5. who did you say is moving next door
6. it was a dictionary that I told you to buy
7. what time is it now
8. on the shelf you'll find a phone book

non-final tonic syllables

tonic syllables may not be final with

- predictable final information
- compound nouns
- contrastive stress

given/new information

- tonic syllable is on new information
- repeated information is not new
- predictable information is not new
- sometimes predictability is hard to determine:

| I'm taking the **dog** for a walk |

| I'm taking the dog to the **vet** |

cleft constructions

- start with *it + be*
- noun is the information in focus
- final relative clause is old information

| it was my **brother** that sent you the letter |

| it was last **Tuesday** that I took the exam |

Compound Nouns (N + N)

- always stressed on first element

post office

traffic lights

history teacher

toilet paper

library card

letter opener

police car

tennis ball

physics exam

computer screen

football boots

phonetics book

cf Adj + N

- Adj + N is not a compound noun

floppy disk
ripe banana
prime minister
eighteenth century
national library

Contrastive Stress

- usually, tonic syllable is final content word
- with contrastive stress, it may fall elsewhere

| my \brother wrote that letter |

A: | is that /Fred's book on the table |

B: | \no | \my book is on the table |

deaccenting

- repeated information is deaccented

A: | do you like /durians |

B: | \no | I \hate durians |

discourse intonation

according to Brazil (1997):

- given information has referring tone (rise or fall-rise)
- new information has proclaiming tone (fall or rise-fall)

| the man at the /front | is \wonderful |

practice

1. you bought some tennis balls didn't you
2. where is the police station
3. have you read Hamlet
4. when I lost my credit card I called the police
5. my brother a brain surgeon is coming to dinner
6. the vase that you broke was a Ming vase
7. I might study biology next year
8. you bought the Christmas cards didn't you

Reading

- TELISROP 35 – 45 (Goh 2000)
- Brazil, D (1997) *The Communicative Value of Intonation*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.