

## INTONATION AND ITS TYPES

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**Abstract.** In this material, we offer a simplified description of intonation and tones American English for those who are studying them on their own. The following tones are briefly described in this material: falling tone, rising tone; fall-rise; high fall, low fall; high rise, mid-level rise, low rise.

**Key words.** Names, terms and descriptions, functions of intonation and tones, intonation and sentence types, normal speech range, tones in sense groups

### **Intanatsiya va uning turlari**

**Annatatsiya.** Ushbu materialda biz intonatsiyaning soddalashtirilgan tavsifini taklif qilamiz va ularni mustaqil ravishda ohang yordamida o'rganamiz.. Ushbu materialda quyidagi ohanglar qisqacha tasvirlangan: ohangning tushishi, ohangning ko'tarilishi; tushish - ko'tarilish; yuqori tushish, past tushish; baland ko'tarilish, o'rta darajadagi ko'tarilish, past ko'tarilish.

**Kalit so'zlar.** Ismlar, atamalar va tavsiflar, intonatsiya va ohanglarning vazifalari, intonatsiya va gap turlari, oddiy nutq diapazoni, sezgi guruhlaridagi ohanglar.

### **Интонация и ее виды.**

**Аннотация.** В этом материале мы предлагаем упрощенное описание интонаций и изучаем их самостоятельно с помощью тонов. В этом материале кратко описаны следующие тона: понижение тона, повышение тона; падать – подниматься; высокое падение, низкое падение; высокий рост, средний рост, низкий рост.

**Ключевые слова.** Имена, термины и описания, функции интонации и тонов, интонация и виды речи, нормальный речевой диапазон, тоны в сенсорных группах.

Types of intonation in phonetic materials for ESL learners are often named and described according to types of sentences in which this or that intonation is used. For example: intonation of statements; intonation of Yes-No questions; intonation of items in a series; intonation of direct address.<sup>1</sup> [1.5] This is a simple and practical

<sup>1</sup> Intonation: The Secret Ingredient to Great Pronunciation.article.real life

way of describing English intonation – you easily memorize where this or that intonation is used while listening to audio samples.

Types of intonation are also named and described using the terms "falling intonation, rising intonation, high-rising intonation", and the like. The tones are named in a similar way: falling tone, or fall; rising tone, or rise; fall-rise; high rise. The names of different types of intonation and tones may differ in phonetic materials.<sup>2</sup>

In our materials on this site, the terms "falling tone, or fall; rising tone, or rise" are used to denote normal unemphatic falling and rising tones; the terms "high fall, high rise, low fall" denote certain emphatic tones. Note that in our materials we describe American English intonation, which is generally characterized by strong rhythmical stresses, by mid-level beginning, and by relatively even mid-level continuation until the final fall or rise.

Intonation is the melody of the sentence. Intonation is created by changes in the pitch of the voice (the voice goes higher and lower; remains on the same level; rises or falls), by sentence stress (strong stress on important words; weak stress or no stress on less important words), and by rhythm (stressed syllables occur at more or less equal intervals).

The most important functions of intonation are to distinguish types of sentences (statements, questions, commands, requests) and to divide sentences into sense groups. Also, intonation allows speakers to express various emotions.

The tone (rise, fall, etc.) is the most significant pitch change that takes place at the end of sense groups and at the end of the sentence. The terminal tone at the end of the sentence is the most important means for determining the type of sentence (statement, question, command, request). (Some other terms related to intonation and tones are described in Introduction and Glossary of Terms in the section Phonetics.)

Syntactically, sentences are divided into four types: declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory.

Intonation distinguishes types of sentences according to intonation and tones in them. For example, commands are pronounced with falling intonation, and requests

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<sup>2</sup> Intonation. J.C. Wells. article

are pronounced with rising intonation: Sit \down. Sit \down, /please. But both of these sentences are imperative sentences.<sup>3</sup>[3.14]

Intonation and tones can change types and meanings of sentences. For example: He is a \doctor. (a statement); He is a /doctor? (an echo question); You can drive a \car, \can't you? (The speaker is almost sure that you can drive a car.) You can drive a \car, /can't you?[3/15] (The speaker is not sure that you can drive a car.)

Normally, all commonly used types of English intonation and tones are pronounced within the normal speaking range in ordinary speech.

Our voices have the ability to pronounce a wide range of sounds, from very low sounds (for example, like grumbling or growling) to very high sounds (for example, like squeaking or squealing). Naturally, we do not normally use grumbling, growling, squeaking, or squealing in our ordinary normal speech. When we speak, we use our normal speaking range, not our total voice range.

Everyone knows his or her normal speech range – the range in which we can speak normally (loudly, softly, quickly, slowly), without straining our voices too much. And everyone knows how low or how high this or that falling or rising tone is usually pronounced in his native language.<sup>4</sup>[4.25]

But the tones of English are not the same as the tones in our native language, and if we want to understand and use them correctly, we need to study them.

Normal unemphatic intonation is used in speech by the majority of people for communication with other people in formal and informal situations of everyday life. Most of our feelings and emotions can be expressed using unemphatic intonation. All types of sentences can be pronounced with normal unemphatic intonation.

Two main types of unemphatic intonation – falling intonation and rising intonation – are described in Falling Intonation and Rising Intonation in the section Phonetics. Usually, unemphatic falling intonation ends in an unemphatic falling tone, and unemphatic rising intonation ends in an unemphatic rising tone.

Emphatic intonation expresses strong emotions and intensifies the meaning of a sentence. <sup>5</sup> [5.135]Emphatic intonation often uses a wider range, in which the voice

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<sup>3</sup> Intonation patterns expressing politeness in English requests and commands and their cross-language perception. (Diplomová práce) Autor: Miriam Delongová (Anglická filologie) Vedoucí práce: Mgr. Václav Jonáš Podlipský, Ph.D.

<sup>4</sup> Generally, pitch of voice refers to a percept (i.e. a subjective experience) of the fundamental frequency (F0) in a speech signal. F0 is subject to physical objective measurements. Although there is a strong correlation between F0 and intonation, we should never equal a F0 track with an intonation pattern (Volín 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Blum-Kulka, S. (1987). Indirectness and politeness in requests: Same of different?. Journal of Pragmatics 11, 131-146. Boersma, P. and Weenink, D. (2013).

may go much higher or lower than in normal intonation. Some emphatic tones, for example, the high rise and the low fall, may occasionally go beyond (above or below) the boundaries of the normal speaking range.

We recommend that learners of English should use mostly unemphatic falling and rising intonation and unemphatic falling and rising tones. Emphatic intonation and tones express various (numerous) nuances of attitude, which are always difficult for language learners to master, and that, in turn, often leads to incorrect use.

**Conclusion.** Intonation and stress are closely linked. In fact it's impossible to dissociate them. They go hand in hand. Intonation is about how we say things, rather than what we say, the way the voice rises and falls when speaking, in other words the music of the language. Just as words have stressed syllables, sentences have regular patterns of stressed words. In addition, the voice tends to rise, fall or remain flat depending on the meaning or feeling we want to convey (surprise, anger, interest, boredom, gratitude, etc.).

Intonation therefore indicates the mood of the speaker. There are two basic patterns of intonation in English: falling intonation and rising intonation. In the following examples a downward arrow (↘) indicates a fall in intonation and an upward arrow (↗) indicates a rise in intonation. Again, these are not rules but patterns generally used by native speakers of English. Just remember that content words are stressed, and intonation adds attitude or emotion. This explanation on intonation is intended to serve as a general guide to help learners.

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