

# INTONATION



## What's the meaning of intonation?

Intonation is primarily a **matter of variation in the pitch of the voice**. In such languages as English, it is often accompanied by stress and rhythm to produce meaning. (Tone is also a form of pitch modulation, but the term describes the use of pitch to differentiate words and grammatical categories.)

## TOPIC

### Phrases Ending with a Rising Pitch

1. Questions that ask for a *yes/no* response (such question words include *can*, *do*, *will*, *would*, *may*, and *is*)

**EXAMPLES** Will you stay? ↗ (No, I can't. ↘)  
Do you like school? ↗ (Yes, I do. ↘)

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## Pair Work



**Instructions:** Practice the intonation of the following questions with your classmate.

### Yes/No Questions ↗

1. Can you see?
2. Does he play golf?
3. May I borrow it?
4. Will she help?
5. Did he arrive?
6. Is Susan your sister?
7. Have they eaten?
8. May I help you?
9. Are we leaving?
10. Can my friends stay?

### Responses ↘

Yes, I can.  
Yes, he does.  
Yes, you may.  
No, she won't.  
Yes, he's here now.  
No, she's my friend.  
Yes, they ate at two.  
Yes, please do.  
No, we're staying.  
Yes, they can.



# TOPIC

## Phrases Ending with a Falling Pitch

2. Questions that require more than a yes/no response (such question words include *who*, *what*, *when*, *why*, *where*, *which*, *how*)

**EXAMPLES** Where is my book? ↘ (On the table. ↘)  
When did he leave? ↘ (At three o'clock. ↘)

## INTONATION IN QUESTIONS

WHEN  
WHERE  
WHY  
WHAT  
HOW

STRESS THE  
BEGINNING

Beginner



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# QUESTION WORDS

## WHO

**Usage:** used to ask the **person** who did the action.

**Examples:**

- Who is the Present of Brazil?
- Who will be the winner?

## WHAT

**Usage:** used to ask for **information**.

**Examples:**

- What does this sentence mean?
- What dress are you wearing tonight?

## WHEN

**Usage:** used to ask the **time** of an event/action.

**Examples:**

- When can I see you again?
- When is the next World Cup?

## WHERE

**Usage:** used to ask for the **location**.



**Examples:**

- Where were the keys?
- Where do you live?

## WHY

**Usage:** used to ask for a **reason/cause**.

**Examples:**

- Why did you break the glass?
- Why haven't you called?

## WHICH

**Usage:** used when there is a **choice**.

**Examples:**

- Which of these pens is the best?
- Which author do you enjoy?

## WHOSE

**Usage:** used to show **possession**.

**Examples:**

- Whose child is this that has a cough?
- Whose bag is this?

## HOW

**Usage:** used to explain a **process**.

**Examples:**

- How do you learn English?
- How has the weather been?





# Wh



**Instructions:** Practice the intonation of the following questions with your classmate.

- ✚ What's this?
- ✚ **Who** did it?
- ✚ **Who** is he?
- ✚ **Who** is she?
- ✚ **Who** are you?
- ✚ **Who** do you like?
- ✚ **Who** did you meet?
- ✚ **Who** is your teacher?
- ✚ **Who** is on the phone?
- ✚ **Who** is your best friend?

- ✚ **What** is it?
- ✚ **What's** this?
- ✚ **What's** that?
- ✚ **What's** the date?
- ✚ **What's** his name?
- ✚ **What's** your name?
- ✚ **What** day is it today?
- ✚ **What's** your last name?
- ✚ **What** are they doing ?
- ✚ **What's** the weather like

- ✚ **When** is your birthday?
- ✚ **When** is his birthday?
- ✚ **When** were you born?
- ✚ **When** does the party start?
- ✚ **When** do you do your homework?
- ✚ **When** is the soccer game on TV?

- ✚ **Where** is my pencil case?
- ✚ **Where** is your book?
- ✚ **Where** are my glasses?
- ✚ **Where** is the post office?
- ✚ **Where** are you from?
- ✚ **Where** is he from?
- ✚ **Where** does she live?

- How are you?
- How old are you?
- How did you do that?
- How was your vacation?
- How often do you exercise?
- How many pencils are there?
- How can I improve my English?

Practice  
Makes  
Perfect



- Why are you crying?
- Why were you late?
- Why did you do that?
- Why are you so happy?
- Why are you laughing?
- Why do people exercise?



**Instructions:** Choose a topic from the **“Wheel of topics”** and make a conversation about it. Make sure you and your classmate include as many **Wh-questions** as possible to practice **intonation**. Please, follow the guidelines provided for this task.





# TOPIC

## Phrases Ending with a Falling Pitch

1. Declarative sentences

EXAMPLES Linda is my sister. ↴ He is not going. ↴

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I have four brothers. ↴  
He is not my friend. ↴  
We like ice cream. ↴  
Tim bought a new car. ↴  
She likes to play tennis. ↴

He ate twenty-five hot dogs.  
The boss gave him a raise.  
You ran 55 miles.  
Mike was elected president.  
It's already three o'clock.

# Stress Within the Word

## Definition

Stress refers to the amount of volume that a speaker gives to a particular sound, syllable, or word while saying it.



### Words Stressed on the First Syllable

1. The majority of two-syllable words are accented on the **FIRST** syllable.

**EXAMPLES** Tu<sup>es</sup>day áwful éver bróther óven wíndow



2. Compound nouns are usually accented on the **FIRST** syllable.

**EXAMPLES** bédroom stóplight schoólhouse bookstóre

3. Numbers that are multiples of ten are accented on the **FIRST** syllable.

**EXAMPLES** twénty thirty fórtyn five sixty séventy



### Words Stressed on the Second Syllable

1. Reflexive pronouns are usually accented on the **SECOND** syllable.

**EXAMPLES** mysélf yoursélf himsélf hersélf oursélves

2. Compound verbs are usually accented on the **SECOND** or **LAST** syllable.

**EXAMPLES** outdóne outsmárt outdó outrún overloók



### Words Generally Unstressed in Sentences: Function Words

Function words are the unimportant words in a sentence. They don't carry as much meaning as content words. We normally do NOT stress function words when speaking. Function words include the following parts of speech:

#### Examples

1. Articles	the, a
2. Prepositions	for, of, in, to
3. Pronouns	I, her, him, he, she, you
4. Conjunctions	but, as, and
5. Helping verbs	is, was, are, were, has, can

# Stress Within the Sentence

## Stress in Adjective / Noun Combinations

When you speak, it's important to use words that describe what you are talking about. Words that describe nouns (people, places, or things) are called adjectives. When you use adjective/noun combinations, the noun normally receives greater stress.



EXAMPLES big dog ... good book ... pretty dress ... nice boy

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYFcIDw\\_Dr4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYFcIDw_Dr4)



Describe (your):

- ✓ House
- ✓ Yourself
- ✓ Costa Rica
- ✓ An object
- ✓ Job or INA
- ✓ A classmate
- ✓ Neighborhood
- ✓ A lovely person