

# INTONATION & SENTENCE STRESS

# Intonation

in English

INTONATION IS ABOUT *HOW* WE SAY THINGS, RATHER THAN WHAT WE SAY

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.

## FALL

The pitch of the voice falls at the end or stress of the sentence.

- Statements
- Commands
- Wh-questions
- Exclamations

## RISE

The pitch of the voice rises at the end of a sentence.

- Yes/No questions

## RISE + FALL

Combination of RISE and FALL

- Choices
- Lists
- Conditional sentences

# FALL

## STATEMENTS

Hi. I'm Kae.  
I live in Buenos Aires.  
There are two chairs.

## COMMANDS

Look at this sentence.  
Take a seat.  
Put on your jacket.

## WH-QUESTIONS

What's your name?  
Where are you from?  
When does the shop open?

# RISE

## YES/NO QUESTIONS

Do you need some help?  
Did you do your homework?  
Do you like pizza?

# RISE+FALL

## CHOICES

Would you like soup or salad?  
Is he Chinese or Japanese?

## LISTS

We have regular dairy milk, chocolate soy milk and lactose free milk.  
The sweater comes in blue, white and black.  
We've got apples, pears and oranges

## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

If he calls, ask him to leave a message.  
If you have any problems, just contact us.

[EXAMPLE VIDEO](#)

Where did you go for your vacations?

I went to Dubrovnik.

Is that in Croatia?

Yes. On the coast.

I live in Madrid.

How are we going to make sandwiches?

Isn't it delicious?

She's a lawyer.

Why don't we get something to eat?

# Sentence Stress

JUST AS WORDS HAVE STRESSED SYLLABLES, SENTENCES HAVE REGULAR PATTERNS OF STRESSED WORDS.

English lets you put the stress on different words to change the meaning of the whole sentence.

We usually place the stress on the last content word in a sentence.

But you change stress to emphasize, give new information, contrast information or to clarify.

## NEW INFORMATION STRESS

Where are you from? I'm from **Seattle**, in the USA.  
What do you want to do? I want to go **bowling**.  
This is my friend, **Jennifer**. She lives in **California**.

## EMPHATIC STRESS

That was a difficult **test**. Standard stress.  
That was a **difficult** test. Emphasizes how difficult the test was.

## CONTRASTIVE STRESS

I think you prefer **this** colour. Not that one.  
I don't want **chocolate** ice-cream. But I want ice-cream!

EXAMPLE VIDEO

 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

Jack will cycle to the restaurant tonight.

**Jack** will cycle to the restaurant tonight.

Jack **will** cycle to the restaurant tonight.

Jack will **cycle** to the restaurant tonight.

Jack will cycle to the **restaurant** tonight.

Jack will cycle to the restaurant **tonight.**

I know **I'm** not, but **you** are.

**This** is the face of a person who **doesn't** trust a person.

How **who** wears it?

That's **Dudly** Moore. I said I wanted it like **Demi** Moore.



1. Where is your sister flying?

a. **My sister** is flying to California.

2. Who is flying to California?

b. My sister is **flying** to California.

3. Is your sister flying to or from California?

c. My sister is flying to **California**.

4. How is your sister going to California?

d. My sister is flying **to** California.