



# INTONATION

Intonation is about *how* we say things, rather than *what* we say, the way the voice rises and falls when speaking



The voice tends to rise, fall or remain flat depending on the meaning or feeling we want to convey



Indicates the mood of the speaker.  
(surprise, anger, interest, boredom, gratitude, etc)

# 1. What is Intonation?

A. Syllables and stress

B. The beat of a language.

C. The individual sound of a language.

D. The melody of a language.

## Falling Intonation(↘)



- ☐ Statements
- ☐ Commands
- ☐ Wh-questions
- ☐ Confirmatory Question tags
- ☐ Exclamations.

## Rising Intonation(↗)



- ☐ Yes/no Questions
- ☐ Questions tags that show uncertainty and require an answer (real questions).

# POLL QUESTION

Does pitch or intonation in English change the meaning of individual words?

- a. Yes, but only for nouns.
- b. Yes, for all words.
- c. It depends on who the speakers are.
- d. No.

# FALLING INTONATION

- **Statements**

- Nice to meet ↘you.
- I'll be back in a ↘minute.
- Cloudy weather is expected at the end of the ↘week.

- **Commands**

- Write your name ↘here.
- Show me what you've ↘written.

- **Wh- questions** (requesting information.) (questions beginning with 'who', 'what', 'why', 'where', 'when', 'which', and 'how')
- What country do you come ↘from?
- Where do you ↘work?

**Questions Tags** that are statements requesting confirmation rather than questions. Not all tag questions are really questions. Some of them merely ask for confirmation or invite agreement, in which case we use a falling tone at the end.

- He thinks he's so clever, doesn't ↘he?
- She's such a nuisance, isn't ↘she?

## **Exclamations**

- How nice of ↘ you!
- That's just what I ↘need!

# POLL QUESTION

.Choose the correct intonation:  
"He lives in Norway."

**A)Falling**

**B)Rising**



# RISING INTONATION

- **Yes/no Questions** (Questions that can be answered by 'yes' or 'no'.)
  - Do you like your new ↗ teacher?
  - Have you finished ↗ already?
  - May I borrow your ↗ dictionary?
  - Do you have any ↗ magazines?

## Questions tags that show uncertainty and require an answer (real questions).

- We've met already, ↗ haven't we?
- You like fish, ↗ don't you?
- You're a new student ↗ aren't you?
- The view is beautiful, ↗ isn't it?

# POLL QUESTION

Are you afraid of the ghosts?

- A. Rising
- B. Falling
- C. Rising Falling

# Rise-Fall Intonation ( ↗ ↘ )

Choices (alternative questions.)



Lists (rising, rising, rising, falling)



Unfinished Thoughts (partial statements



Conditional sentences

- **Choices** (alternative questions.)
  - Are you having ↗ soup or ↘ salad?
  - Is John leaving on ↗ Thursday or ↘ Friday?
  - Does he speak ↗ German or ↘ French?
  - Is your name ↗ Ava or ↘ Eva?

**Lists** (rising, rising, rising, falling) Intonation falls on the last item to show that the list is finished.

- We've got ↗ apples, pears, bananas and ↘ oranges
- The sweater comes in ↗ blue, white pink and ↘ black
- I like ↗ football, tennis, basketball and ↘ volleyball.

**Unfinished thoughts (partial statements)** In the responses to the following questions, the rise-fall intonation indicates reservation. The speaker hesitates to fully express his/her thoughts.

- Do you like my new handbag? Well the ↗ leather is ↘ nice...  
( but I don't like it.)
- What was the meal like? Hmm, the ↗ fish was ↘ good... (but the rest wasn't great).

**Conditional sentences** (The tone rises in the first clause and falls gradually in the second clause.)

- If he ↗ calls, ask him to leave a ↘ message.
- Unless he ↗ insists, I'm not going to ↘ go.



# POLL QUESTION

Would you like full cream or light milk?

A. Rising

B. Falling

C. Rising Falling

# PRACTICE

**1. You don't know what I'm talking about, do you?**

**A. Rising**

**B. Falling**

**2. You said three o'clock, didn't you?**

**A. Rising**

**B. Falling.....**

# PRACTICE

**3. You called her to say we were coming, didn't you?**

**A. Rising**

**B. Falling**

**4. You've got the keys, haven't you?**

**A. Rising**

**B. Falling**