



**Pronunciation:** intonation  
patterns - questions,  
clarification and  
signposting



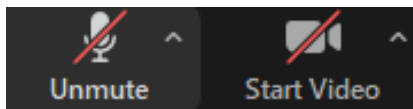
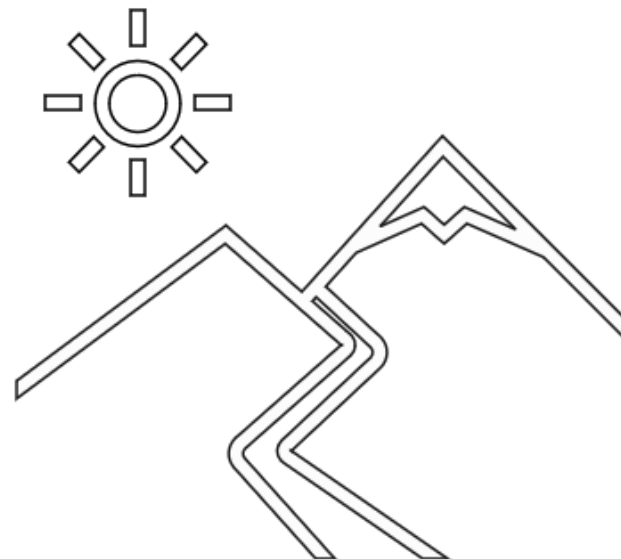
# Introduction

Welcome to **Pronunciation Live25!**

- A new feature of English Online
- Free **pronunciation** presentations
- Download the PDF after booking
- **Practise on mute**
- Sit back and enjoy the ride!

*Please be on mute*

*You can keep your cams off*



# Lead-in

I'm going to ask you some questions.

Please write your answers in the chat.

Listen again. What do you notice about my voice? Does it go up or down?



# Let's focus

Intonation describes how our voice goes up and down as we speak.

There are three main patterns of intonation in English:

- **falling intonation** (the voice falls on the final stressed syllable of a phrase or a group of words)

*What do you hope to learn in this session?*



- **rising intonation** (the voice rises at the end of sentence or question)

*Are you all sitting somewhere nice and quiet?*



- **fall-rise intonation** (the voice falls and then rises)

*Would you like to improve your pronunciation today?*



# Meaning and use (Asking questions)

**Falling intonation** is typical in *wh*- questions:

- *What time did you get here?* 

**Rising intonation** is commonly heard in questions that don't have a question word (*yes/no*) questions:

- *Are you alright?* 

**Fall-rise intonation** is used in questions in which we request information or invite somebody to do or to have something. It helps make our question sound more polite:

- *Would you like to take a seat?*  

# Practice

Listen to your teacher model the sentences and pay attention to the intonation. Practice repeating the sentences to yourself.

1. Is he thirsty?

2. When can we expect her?

3. Would you like to join us?

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## Check your understanding

**In yes/no questions, does my voice go up or down?**

e.g. *Do you speak English?*

**In questions that have a question word, does my voice go up or down?**

e.g. *Where do you come from?*

**Do we use fall-rise intonation to sound polite or more direct?**

e.g. *Is this your camera?*

# Meaning and use (Signposting)

**Signposting expressions** are the words and phrases that we use in order to **guide the listener** coherently through what is being said. We often use signposting language when delivering presentations or telling stories.

- **topic markers** are used to introduce a topic. They usually have a rising intonation. This helps us to sound enthusiastic.

  
*Firstly, ...*

   
*Today, I'd like to talk about*

- **topic shifters** are used to change topic. They usually have a falling intonation.

  
*OK, now...*

  
*Let's move on.*

- **contrast markers** are used to contrast something that has been said previously. They usually have a falling intonation.

    
*However, it remains very expensive.*

   
*That being said, not everyone approves.*



# Key point

## Remember:

- our voice typically goes up (rising intonation) with YES / NO questions
- our voice typically goes down (falling intonation) with questions that have a question word
- to make our requests and invitations sound more polite, use fall-rise intonation

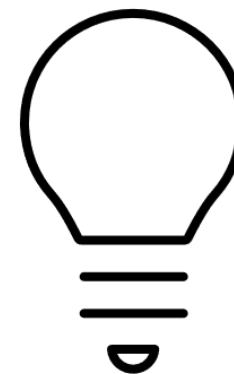
## Pronunciation tip:

We also use falling intonation when providing clarification:

A: Go straight on and turn right onto Melville Road.

B: Left onto Melville Road?

A: No. Right onto Melville Road.



# Pronunciation Checkout

Listen to me reading these sentences. What intonation pattern do you hear? Type R for rising, F for falling, FR for fall-rise.

1. However, it remains a very contentious issue.

RISING

FALLING

FALL-RISE

2. Was she late again?

RISING

FALLING

FALL-RISE

3. Secondly, another key advantage is the cost.

RISING

FALLING

FALL-RISE

4. Would you like me to open the window?

RISING

FALLING

FALL-RISE

5. What's the current time in Beijing?

RISING

FALLING

FALL-RISE



# Pronunciation Checkout - Answers

Listen to me reading these sentences. What intonation pattern do you hear? Type R for rising, F for falling, FR for fall-rise.

1. However, it remains a very contentious issue.

**FALLING**

2. Was she late again?

**RISING**

3. Secondly, another key advantage is the cost.

**RISING**

4. Would you like me to open the window?

**FALL-RISE**

5. What's the current time in Beijing?

**FALLING**



# Thank you for attending this presentation!

Review the next few slides for lessons linked to this Live25 webinar.

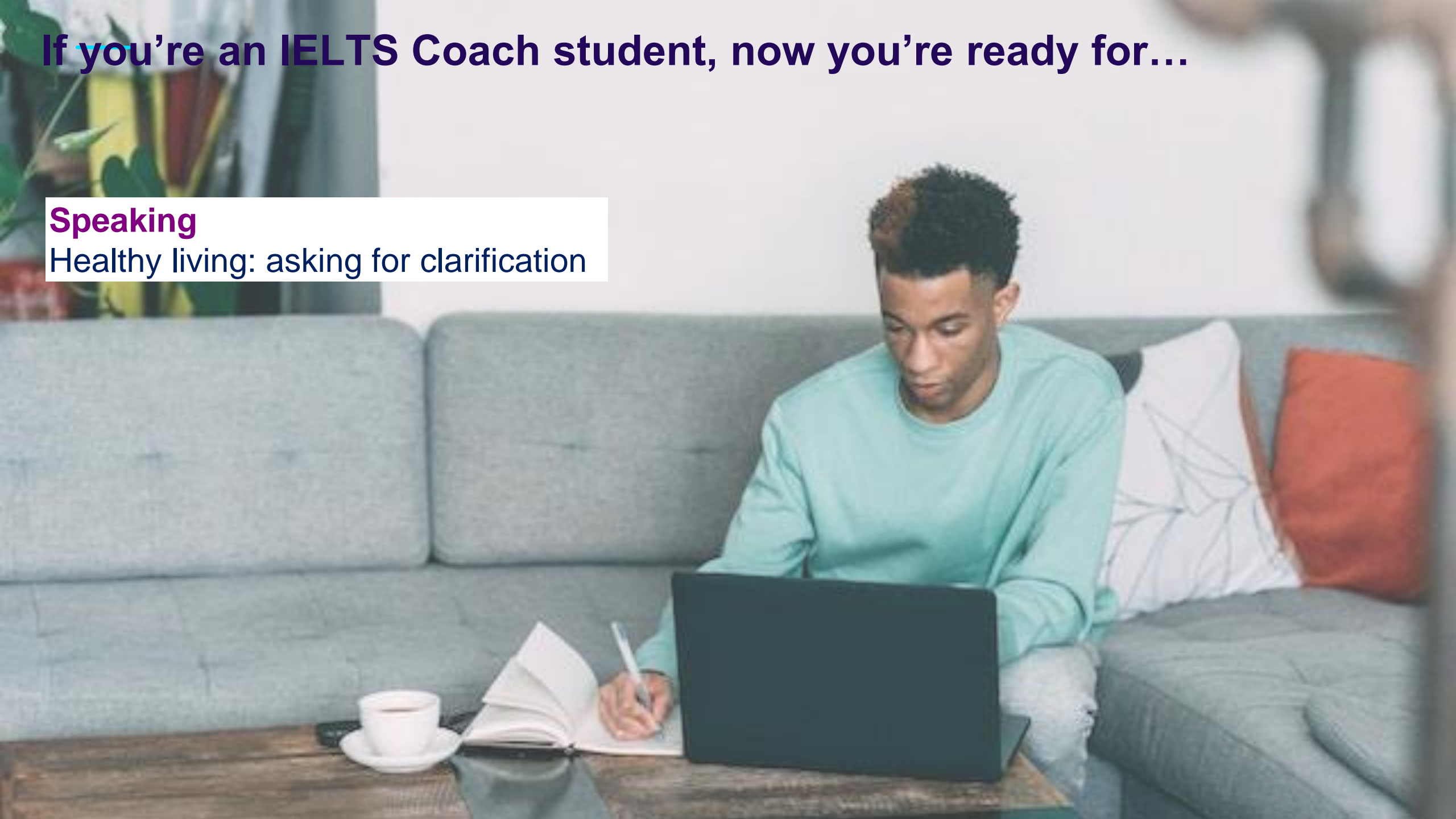


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkgMFZMBfqQ>

If you're an IELTS Coach student, now you're ready for...

**Speaking**

Healthy living: asking for clarification



# If you're an English Online student, now you're ready for...

## Elementary

**Theme:** Numbers and dates

**Lesson:** What time do you..?

## Pre-intermediate

**Theme:** Business communication

**Lesson:** Asking and answering basic questions

## Intermediate

**Theme:** Employment matters

**Lesson:** Asking someone how they got their job

## Upper intermediate

**Theme:** Discussion and debate

**Lesson:** Expressing yourself at meetings

## Advanced

**Theme:** The world of tomorrow

**Lesson:** Working together





A person wearing a white sweater is sitting at a white desk, typing on a silver laptop. A glass of water is visible on the desk to the right of the laptop. The background is a plain white wall.

# If you're an English for Work student, now you're ready for...

## Elementary

**Theme:** Presentations and networking

**Lesson:** Preparing for a presentation

## Pre-intermediate

**Theme:** Clients and colleagues

**Lesson:** Problems in the office

## Intermediate

**Theme:** Presentations and networking

**Lesson:** Giving a presentation

## Upper intermediate

**Theme:** Changes of plan

**Lesson:** Presentations

## Advanced

**Theme:** People and events

**Lesson:** Negotiating