

## Other salient features of Level 3: Truncation, breath, lengthening

### Truncated IUs

**Em dash** (or two hyphens) at the end of an IU indicates that the speaker aborts the intonation unit before completing its projected contour. In other words, *at the moment of utterance, the speaker intended to bring the intonational contour to its completion but then abandons it before finishing* – an intonational “false start.” The em dash is not intended to represent the case of a unit which appears incomplete when measured against the canons of normative grammar. IUs that do not constitute complete clauses are of course commonplace, and usually quite normal and “complete” as intonation units. For example, conjunctions and particles (“and,” “well”) frequently appear as complete intonation units marked with a comma at the end to signal continuing intonation – a kind of incompleteness if you will, but one which is distinct in principle from the truncation signaled by the em dash. The unit marked by the comma typically constitutes all the speaker intended to say under one intonational contour, while in the unit marked by the em dash, the speaker projected to say more under the current contour but abandoned some portion of the projected utterance. Truncation is thus measured not against the normative notions of clause completeness, but against the speaker’s presumed projection for the current intonation unit. **The em dash appears as the last symbol of the line it appears in, and is separated from the previous word by a space.**

#### (1) Truncation

((*Conceptual Pesticides* SBCSAE 003 58.78-62.75))

MARILYN; Okay,  
now.  
How much --  
Do you guys each want like,  
half of that?

#### (2) Truncation

((*Conceptual Pesticides* SBCSAE 003 270.56-276.81))

MARILYN; Well I probably @could've @bought @it @that @way.  
PETE; @@  
MARILYN; But I- --  
You know,  
I said,  
I want it to be homemade.  
You know,  
something special.

#### (3) False start without truncation (by Pete)

((*Conceptual Pesticides* SBCSAE 003 276.81-279.81))

PETE; Well at [least] they are uh like already breaded,  
ROY; [Hm],  
PETE; I mean crumbed and in the jar,

### Breath

**Capital H in single parentheses (H)** indicates audible inhalation. In conversation, breathing is more than just a bodily necessity; it can be used, for example, as a signal that one is about to take a turn at speaking. Although it is important to record audible inhalation and exhalation it must be frankly recognized that a simple difference in

microphone proximity or background noisiness between two recordings, or even between two speakers on the same recording, can mean that breathing is heard in the one case where it would be missed in the other. There is not much that one can do about such biasing factors, except to seek the best audio quality possible in one's recordings, and to remain realistic about the possible effects of recording quality bias whenever one makes reference to audible inhalation or exhalation in an analysis.

**Capital H followed by lowercase x in single parenthesis (Hx)** indicates audible exhalation. Sometimes a speaker audibly inhales and exhales several times in immediate succession. All of this can be written within a single set of parentheses: (H Hx H Hx).

#### (4) Breath

((*A Book About Death* SBCSAE 005 17.58-25.82))

PAMELA;     Hardly:,  
                  look where I've come from.  
                  (0.5)  
                  (H) I mean,  
                  .. (Hx)  
                  (0.5)  
                  (H) this chapter on heaven and hell,  
                  it's really interesting.

### (Pragmatic) Lengthening

**Colon :** indicates that the preceding segment is lengthened to a degree greater than what is expected on the basis of accent, lexical stress or length, or position in IU. The slight lengthening that is to be expected when a syllable is accented or stressed is not marked with the colon. Similarly, segments that are phonemically long (in a language with a contrast between long and short vowels or consonants) do not on that account receive the colon notation; phonemic length should be written with a different symbol (double letters, macrons, etc.). **The colon is written immediately following the lengthened sound; no spaces separate it from the letters of the word it appears in. For sounds that are represented in standard orthography by a digraph (e.g. in English ee, ea, oo, ph, ch, tt, etc.), the convention is that the colon is written after the final letter of the digraph. Segments that you believe are “extra-lengthened” can be so indicated with multiple colons.**

#### (5) Lengthening

((*Conceptual Pesticides* SBCSAE 003 752.21-757.84))

ROY;            You know.  
                  (0.4)  
                  Outside of,  
                  (0.2)  
                  compl:etely faith based belief in God,

#### (6) Extra lengthening

((*Conceptual Pesticides* SBCSAE 003 15.21-19.36))

MARILYN;     (H) ~Peter,  
                  would you like to  
                  (0.5)  
                  string the bea::ns?  
  
PETE;            Sure.