

## Introduction

**Intonation** is the relative pitch level of the voice. It is the relatively high or low note with which a word or syllable is pronounced. If stress is for words or syllables, intonation is for the whole utterances or sentences. In English, intonation does not signal changes in meaning of individual words but shows various moods and attitudes of the speaker.

English has four levels of intonation. These levels are:

Extra high shows an extreme degree of emotion or emphasis. This is rarely used.

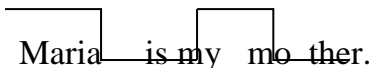
High level shows normal emphasis in most sentences.

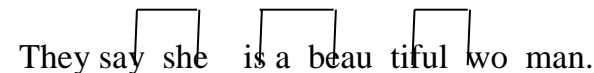
Mid level is the normal pitch level for the majority of sentences. This is more commonly used than the other two.

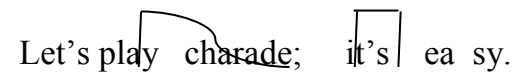
Low level shows that a phrase or sentence is finished or is about to be finished.


English sentences are normally said with the voice at mid-level pitch, rising to a high level and then dropping to low level. This is called the falling intonation pattern.

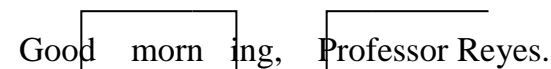
**Intonation Patterns:** Observe how the patterns determine the rising and falling intonation in these sentences.

1. Maria  is my mo-ther.

2.  They say she is a beau-tiful wo-man.

3.  Let's play charade; it's ea-sy.

4.  Hel-lo Dr. Cruz.

5.  Good morn-ing, Professor Reyes.

6. Are you all right Arturo?
7. He owns an expensive car but he doesn't drive it.
8. Will you take up summer classes or will you go home for the summer vacation?
9. I bought a pen, an eraser, and a pencil sharpener.
10. Would you like ice cream or coffee?
11. Where's your brother?
12. Is he home?
13. Are you coming?
14. How are you?
15. What's the time?

### Social Politeness through Correct Intonation

Speaking better is not just a matter of better pronunciation. Since English is essential for social and career adjustment, it becomes necessary to have a good understanding of good

social manners. Rules of politeness, for instance, dictate that requests be made in question form, not imperative sentences.

Examples:

1. Can I have another helping of ice cream, please?
2. Can I have a cup of coffee, please?
3. Pardon me, can I have your name again, please?
4. Miss, can you give me a withdrawal form, please?
5. Can you tell me my tuition fee balance, please?
6. Would you move over, please?
7. May I smoke, please?
8. Would you mind toning down the radio, please?
9. Would you mind waiting, please?
10. Could you come back tomorrow?

### CHALLENGER

#### DRILL 1

#### Matter-of-fact-sentences (Falling Intonation)

1. They think it's wrong.
2. She longs for a ring.
3. They cling to the trunk.
4. It hangs from the tank.
5. We're learning English.
6. His faith is great.
7. This news is timely.
8. It's the best of the method.
9. He snuffs the candle.

10. He drives to the zigzag.

**DRILL 2**

**Questions Unanswerable by Yes or No (Falling Intonation)**

1. Where do you live?
2. Why are you in mourning?
3. Who told you so?
4. What am I here for?
5. How do you feel?
6. Why are you happy?
7. Who are your parents?
8. Where did you stay?
9. Why did you go to Europe?
10. Who is your friend?

**DRILL 3**

**Questions Answerable by Yes or No (Rising Intonation)**

1. Am I your cousin?
2. Were you at home yesterday?
3. Are your fingernails short?
4. Does your aunt dance?
5. Do the children speak English?
6. Is your brother handsome?
7. Are you afraid of ghosts?
8. Were you there last night?
9. Are you eating?
10. Does your sister feel well?

### Introduction

**Juncture** is a tiny pause or break in the flow of speech which enables the listener to differentiate between meanings. Proper application of juncture helps the listener distinguish “**ice cream**” from “**I scream**”, “**an aim**” from “**a name**” and other similar conditions.

There are three types of juncture in English. These are the **close**, **open** and **terminal junctures**. The terminal juncture is the pause at the end of the sentence or an utterance. The close and open junctures are illustrated in the following examples:

#### CLOSE JUNCTURE

nitrate

lettuce

attack

a name

ice-cream

more rice

#### OPEN JUNCTURE

night rate

let us

a tack

an aim

I scream

more ice

He spoke informal English.

I saw a man-eating fish.

John Simon’s brother got married

To my friend, Elsa Juan is intelligent

Woman! Without her, man in nothing.

Better go, naked people don’t mind.

Paulo admits Charles is handsomer.

My teacher said the actress is pregnant.

He spoke in formal English.

I saw a man eating fish.

John, Simon’s brother, got married.

To my friend Elsa, Juan is intelligent

Woman without her man, is nothing.

Better go naked, people don’t mind.

Paulo, admits Charles, is handsomer.

My teacher, said the actress, is pregnant.

**CHALLENGER**

Practice Materials for Stress, Intonation and Juncture

A. Read the following materials with appropriate application of stress, intonation, and juncture:

**1. Stress patterns for modifier-noun phrase vs. compound nouns:**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| black board     | blackboard      |
| cold cream      | coldcream       |
| week end        | weekend         |
| blue bird       | bluebird        |
| red cap         | redcap          |
| hair brush      | hairbrush       |
| green house     | greenhouse      |
| free way        | freeway         |
| short stop      | shortstop       |
| blue book       | bluebook        |
| white house     | White House     |
| toy store       | toystore        |
| post office     | post office     |
| gold fish       | goldfish        |
| head doctor     | head doctor     |
| English teacher | English teacher |
| black berry     | blackberry      |
| grand father    | grandfather     |
| center piece    | centerpiece     |
| toy shop        | toyshop         |
| wall paper      | wallpaper       |
| paper hanger    | paperhanger     |
| yellow jacket   | yellow jacket   |

### 2. Sentences

1. A black board is any board which is black.  
A blackboard is used for writing in the classroom, which may not necessarily be black.
2. A cold cream is a cream that is cold.  
A cold cream is a cleansing cream (usually for the face) which may not necessarily be cold.
3. A weak end is an ending that is weak.  
A weekend is the end of the week.
4. A blue bird is a bird that is blue.  
A bluebird is a name of a bird.
5. A green house is a house painted green.  
A greenhouse is a nursery for plants.
6. A free way is a way or a road that is free of traffic and free of toll fees.  
A freeway is a superhighway of limited access.
7. A short stop is a brief stop made by some traveler.  
A shortstop is a member of a baseball team.
8. A blue book is a book that is blue.  
A bluebook is a test booklet.
9. A white house is a house painted white.  
A White House is the house where the US President lives.
10. A toy store is a store selling toys.  
A toystore is a toy (a sore toy).
11. A hair brush is a brush made of hair.  
A hairbrush is a brush for the hair.
12. A post office is an office of an army post.  
A post office is where letters are mailed.

13. A gold fish is a fish colored gold.  
A goldfish is a name of a fish.
  14. A head doctor is a chief doctor or a supervising physician.  
A head doctor is a psychiatrist.
  15. An English teacher who is an English national who may not be teaching English.  
An English teacher of any nationality and who teaches English.
  16. A black berry is a berry which is black.  
A blackberry is a name of a fruit.
  17. A grand father is a great, wonderful father who may not have any grandchildren.  
A grandfather is a father of one's father and has grand children.
  18. A yellow jacket is a jacket yellow in color.  
A yellow jacket is a kind of wrap with a painful sting.
- B. Read the following sentences, observing proper juncture.
1. An ice drink is a nice drink.
  2. He said, "say man, "but not "same man."
  3. Pay day is not always a paid day.
  4. The snail is different than this nail.
  5. This lime is not the slime.
  6. This mutt is not the smut.
  7. He says "Erasure error" instead of erase your error.
  8. Close your order but not closure order.
  9. If you depart you're safe but hold your departure.
  10. If you proceed, you're lost so please do the procedure.