Intonation Worksheet

expresses mood, emotion, intent meaning of your message
pitch = the rising & lowering of your voice (like a singer)

basic rules of intonation: falling, rising, choice, list, double rise.
Personality & emotion also change the intonation/pitch levels of a sentence.

1. Falling Intonation

commands, statements, 'wh' questions
pitch jumps up slightly then falls on the last word of the sentence.

Commands

Go sit down. ↘
Come over here.
Eat your food.
Do you hear that falling pitch at the end?

Statements

Her boyfriend came to dinner. ↘
I'm 6 feet tall.
Those strawberries are for dessert.

'wh' questions

What's your name? ↘
How long have you worked here?
Where did you go on vacation?

Falling Intonation Practice Sentences:

1. How many people are coming? ↘
2. Come home right now!
3. Where do you want to meet?
4. This pasta tastes delicious.
5. Why do you want to know?
6. I've been working out every day.
7. That book was so interesting.
8. When do you start your new job?
9. Sit next to the window.
10. We had a great time at the game.

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2. Rising Intonation

'yes' or 'no' questions (questions that are answered by 'yes' or 'no') & statement of surprise

pitch falls slightly then jumps up on the last word of the sentence.

'yes' or 'no' questions

Is he on his way? ↗

Is the play on Friday?

Do we want to sit here?

statement of surprise or disbelief

You got an A on the test! ↗

You're having a baby!

He broke his leg!

Rising Intonation Practice Sentences:

1. Are you coming tonight? ↗
2. Do you want to go?
3. Can you get the tickets?
4. He kissed you!
5. My car's gone!

3. Choice Intonation

questions with 'or' & statements with 'and'

pitch rises on the first choice & falls on the second choice.

questions with an 'or'

Do you want one ↗ or two ↘ doughnuts?

Would you prefer beef or chicken?

Is it good or bad?

statements with 'and'

There is dirt ↗ and oil ↘ all over my carport.

I found a nickel and a dime on the ground.

Chips and salsa are my favorite snack.

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Choice Intonation Practice Sentences:

1. Would you like coffee or tea?
2. Do you prefer action or romance movies?
3. Can I get you a soup or salad?
4. Feel free to sit and relax.
5. I am sick and tired of your complaining.

4. List Intonation

pitch rises on each item of the list except for the last item, then it will fall.

List Intonation Practice Sentences:

1. Do you like baseball, soccer, football, or tennis?
2. Should we invite Kim, Tom, or Ted?
3. I like to bring paper, pencils, pens, folders, and my laptop.
4. He is driving through France, Spain, and Italy.
5. Do you want ice cream, soda, chips, or a pretzel?

5. Double-Rise Intonation

questions with 'and'

pitch rises on both items of around the 'and'.

Double-Rise Intonation Practice Sentences:

1. Would you like ice cream and cake?
2. Can I get you any salt and pepper?
3. Do you want sugar and cream in your coffee?
4. Are you feeling stressed and angry?
5. Will you invite Sam and John to the lunch?
6. Can I treat you to dinner and dessert?
7. Can you make it to the meetings on Tuesday and Thursday?
8. Do you want toast and eggs for breakfast?

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Personality

pitch levels depend on the personality of the speaker.

Low & quiet pitch = reserved personality
Mid-range pitch = friendly and confident personality
High & loud pitch = Very outgoing and exciting personality

Practice saying this phrase with different pitch levels: low, medium, high

- Hi, my name is _____.

Emotion

The level of emotion can change the pitch level.
When the situation is intense - the pitch increases.

Practice Sentences:

1. Where is my laptop?
2. I left it right here!
3. I think someone stole it!
4. I can't believe you're moving!
5. I'm going to miss you so much!

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Intonation Practice

Practice these dialogues using the 5 basic rules of intonation: *falling, rising, choice, list, double-rise*.
Also, pay attention to the *personality* and *emotion* portrayed by your pitch.

Dialogue 1

A: How was your weekend?
B: My weekend was nice.
A: Yeah? What did you do?
B: Not much at all.
A: Did you rest enough?
B: I really did. How was your weekend?
A: Not as good as yours...
B: Oh no, what happened?
A: It's complicated. I'll tell you about it later.
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I hope you're doing okay.

Dialogue 2

A: Hi Jill!
B: Hi Nancy!
A: Did you hear about Tim's engagement?
B: What? I had no idea!
A: I didn't know either!
B: How did you find out?
A: It turns out he's been dating my sister!
B: And you didn't know?
A: They've been keeping it a secret!
B: Why would they do that?!

Dialogue 3

A: What did you do this summer?
B: I went to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, and India.
A: Wow! You must be exhausted!
B: Yes, I am sick and tired of traveling, but I had a great time!
A: I'm glad it was worth the time and expense.
B: Oh, it definitely was!



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Dialogue 4

A: This chocolate cake is delicious!
B: I really like it too!
A: Do you think Aunt Debra made it?
B: Maybe.
A: She's always been a good cook.
B: She really has.
A: Do you think she'd share her recipe? I wonder if she puts baking powder or baking soda.
B: I don't know…
A: Should we ask her?
B: It never hurts to ask.

Dialogue 5

A: We need to go grocery shopping.
B: Why? We have everything.
A: You forget about the party Saturday.
B: Oh yeah…What time is it?
A: It's at 7.
B: What do we need to get?
A: Everything!
B: Let's make a list of what to get.
A: Why?
B: So we don't overspend!

Dialogue 6

A: Honey… I'm home!
B: Oh good!
A: Is everything okay?
B: Yeah. Everything's fine.
A: Oh good!
B: How was work?
A: It was alright.
B: Are you hungry at all?
A: I'm starving! What did you make?
B: Your favorite! Spiced lamb and potatoes.

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