

Intonation in English pronunciation

Speaking and understanding English doesn't just come from using correct grammar and vocabulary. Native English speakers convey meaning in their sentences with pitch — the ups ↗ and downs ↘ of their sentences.

There are two basic patterns of intonation in English: **falling intonation and rising intonation**.

Incorrect intonation can result in misunderstandings, speakers losing interest or even taking offence!

There are different intonation patterns used for different types of sentences. Here some examples:

Statements: falling intonation	Nice to meet ↘ you. I'll be back in a ↘ minute. She doesn't live here ↘ anymore. Dad wants to change his ↘ car. Here is the weather ↘ forecast.
Commands: falling intonation	Write your name ↘ here. Show me what you've ↘ written. Leave it on the ↘ desk. Take that picture ↘ down. Put your books on the ↘ table.
Wh- questions: falling intonation	What country do you come ↘ from? Where do you ↘ work? Which of them do you ↘ prefer? When does the shop ↘ open? Which coat is ↘ yours? Whose bag is ↘ this?
Yes/no Questions: rising intonation	Do you like your new ↗ teacher? Have you finished ↗ already? May I borrow your ↗ dictionary? Do you have any ↗ magazines? Do you sell ↗ stamps?
Questions tags that show uncertainty and require an answer (real questions): rising intonation	You like fish, ↗ don't you? You're a new student ↗ aren't you? The view is beautiful, ↗ isn't it? We've met already, ↗ haven't we?

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