

INTONATION

I. DEFINITION -

- A. the melody of a language
- B. Speech rises & falls in tones like notes on a musical scale
- C. The different tones that are produced are called pitches
- D. Different pitches may indicate different meanings for the very same utterance
- E. Pitch allows people to express different feelings such as happiness, sadness, curiosity, surprise, anger, annoyance, etc.

II. FALLING INTONATION - the pitch goes down (—↘) at the end of an utterance

A. STATEMENTS & COMMANDS

- ❖ He studies English ↘
- ❖ Do your homework! ↘
- ❖ Don't touch the merchandise! ↘

B. WH- QUESTIONS (who, when, where, why, how, which, etc.)

- ❖ Why didn't you do your homework? ↘
- ❖ How did she get to school? ↘

III. RISING INTONATION - the pitch goes up (—↗) at the end of an utterance

A. YES / NO QUESTIONS

- ❖ Was he late for class? ↗
- ❖ Do you have a job? ↗

B. AFTER EACH ITEM ON A LIST (except last item) or AFTER EACH CHOICE (except the last choice)

- ❖ I ate bacon, ↗ eggs, ↗ hashbrowns, ↗ and toast ↘ for breakfast.
- ❖ Do you want water ↗ or soda? ↘

IV. TAGS - RISING & FALLING INTONATION

A. RISING INTONATION - the speaker is NOT sure of the answer

- ❖ Ulisses didn't come to class, did he? (I don't know if he did)
- ❖ We're studying intonation tonight, aren't we? (I don't know if we are)

B. FALLING INTONATION - the speaker already knows the answer & is only seeking agreement

- ❖ You didn't do your homework, did you? (I know you didn't do it)
- ❖ Class starts at 7:30, doesn't it? (I know it does)