

INTONATION

and it's functions



Intonation

- In linguistics, **intonation** is the variation of pitch when speaking.
- **Intonation** and stress are two main elements of linguistic prosody (suprasegmental level of phonetics).
- **Intonation** is a part of suprasegmental phonology.
- Intonation helps to recognize the language that you hear in the same way as the melody of a song helps to recognize the song that you hear.



Key components of Intonation

- Intonation is **based on several key components**:
 - Pitch,
 - Sentence stress,
 - Rhythm.



Pitch

- Pitch is the degree of height of our voice in speech.
- Normal speaking pitch is at *midlevel*.
- Intonation is formed by certain pitch changes, characteristic of a given language.



Sentence stress

- **Sentence stress** makes the utterance understandable to the listener by making the important words in the sentence stressed, clear and higher in pitch and by shortening and obscuring the unstressed words.
- Sentence stress provides rhythm in connected speech.



- An important feature of English intonation
- is the use of an *intonational accent* (and extra stress) to mark the **focus** of a sentence.
Normally this focus accent goes on the last major word of the sentence.



Functions of intonation

- Attitudinal functions
- Accentual functions
- Grammatical functions
- Discourse functions



ATTITUDINAL FUNCTIONS

- Allow us to express emotions: finality, confidence, interest, surprise, doubt, joy, pain, irony, etc.



ACCENTUAL FUNCTIONS

- When it is said that intonation has accentual function, it implies that the **placement of stress is somewhat determined by intonation.**



GRAMMATICAL FUNCTIONS

- The listener is better able to recognize the grammar and syntax structure of what is being said by using the information contained in the intonation. For example such things as:
- A - The placement of boundaries between phrases, clauses and sentences.
- B - The difference between questions and statements.



THE DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS OF INTONATION

- Intonation can signal to the listener what is to be taken as “new” information and what is already “given”.
- It can indicate when the speaker is indicating some sort of contrast or link with material in another tone unit.
- In conversation it can convey to the listener what kind of response is being expected from him.



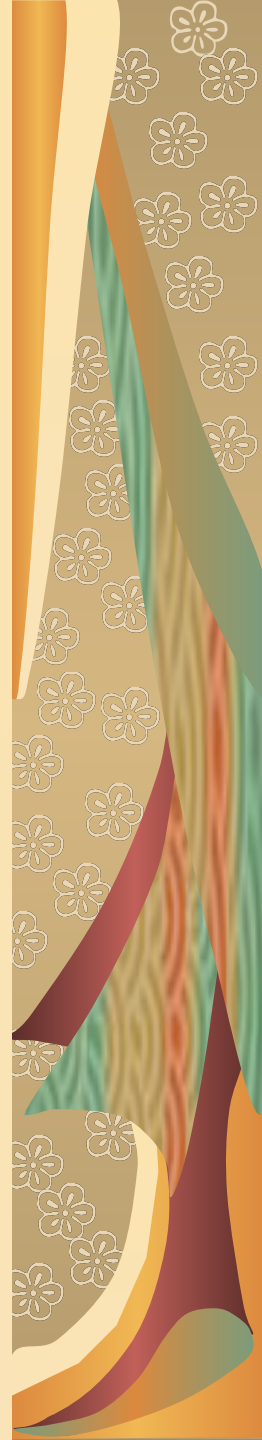
Types of English intonation

- In general, linguists distinguish several **main types of English intonation**.
The two basic types are:
 - **falling intonation**
 - **rising intonation**
- Other main types of intonation include:
high fall, low fall, fall-rise, high rise, midlevel rise, low rise.



Falling Intonation

- **Falling intonation is the most common type** of standard unemphatic intonation in English.
- **It is used for** asking and giving information in normal, quiet, unemphatic style.
- **Sounds more categorical, confident and convincing** than rising intonation.
- Standard falling intonation in English falls stronger and deeper than standard falling intonation in Russian.



Standard patterns

- **Falling intonation is used** on the last stressed syllable of the sentence in:
- **Statements** (declarative sentences): We live in \MOScow. He doesn't have a \CAR.
- **Special questions**: Where do you \LIVE?
- **Commands (imperative sentences)**: \STOP it! Sit \DOWN.
- **Exclamatory sentences**: What a wonderful sur\PRISE!
- **The last part of alternative questions** (after "or"): Do you want /TEA or \COFfee?
- **Tag questions** (When we the speaker is *sure* that the answer will be "yes"): You \LIVE here, \DON'T you? (The speaker is sure and expects the answer "yes".)



Rising Intonation

- Rising intonation in English is a pretty complicated phenomenon.
- **It can express** a number of various emotions, such as: non-finality, surprise, doubt, interest, politeness, lack of confidence.
- Rising intonation in English is ***very different from rising intonation in Russian.***
- Standard rising intonation in English first goes down a little and then up, and doesn't go as high as the rise in Russian does.



Standard patterns

- **Rising intonation** is used in:
- **General questions:** Was she glad to /SEE him?
- **Dependent or introductory parts of sentences:** If he /CALLS, ask him to \COME.
- **The first part of alternative questions** (before “or”): Would you like an /APple or a \PEAR?
- **Direct address:** /SIR, you dropped your \NOTEbook.
- **Enumerating items in a list:** She bought / bread, / cheese and to\MAtoes.
- **Tag questions** (When we the speaker is *not sure* that the answer will be “yes” or wants your oppinion): It’s a beautiful \TOWN, /ISN’T it? (The speaker thinks that the town is beautiful but asks for your opinion and confirmation.)



Change of standard patterns

Statement	1) He bought a new \HOUSE. He bought a new /HOUSE?	Standard statement giving information Surprised question
Special question	2) What is your \NAME? What is your /NAME?	Standard intonation, asking for information More interested, surprised or asking to repeat
General question	3) Do you have a /CAR? Do you have a \CAR?	Standard intonation, asking for information The answer “yes” is expected
Request	4) Could you give me a /PEN, please? Could you give me a \PEN, please?	Polite request Sounds like a command, the answer “yes” is expected

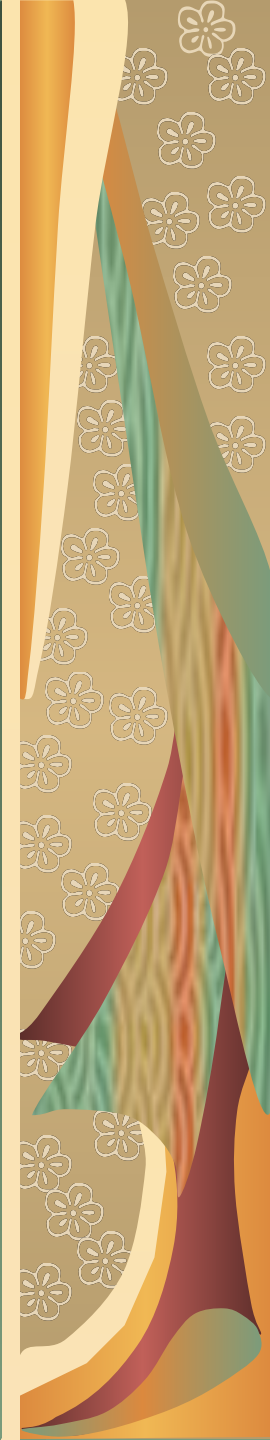


Intonation in Russian language

- In Russian language intonation **helps to distinguish the meaning of the phrase.**
- Intonation can be either ascending or descending.
- The rise or lowering of intonation occurs on the accented word syllable which is the most important by meaning. Such a word is called the **intonational centre.**



Intonation construction	Example	Remarks
<p>Narrative sentence</p>	<p>----- \ Меня зовут <u>И</u>горь.</p>	<p>Completed statement. The voice is even, descending to the end of a sentence.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Question with an interrogative word.</i> • <i>Request expressed by a verb in the imperative form.</i> 	<p>---- \ Как вас зовут?</p> <p>----- \ Дайте, пожалуйста, мне кофе.</p>	<p>At first the voice becomes a little louder and then smoothly descends to the end of an interrogative sentence.</p> <p>The voice ascends at the verb in the imperative and smoothly descends to the end of a sentence.</p>
<p>General question</p>	<p>---- \ Вы были в музее?</p>	<p>The voice ascends at the main word (the topic of a question).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Incomplete question with the contrastive conjunction a.</i> 2) <i>Comparative question .</i> 3) <i>Enumeration.</i> 	<p>--- \ - / Я живу в Москве. А ты?</p> <p>----- \ - - / Ему понравился фильм? А тебе?</p>	<p>The voice ascends and immediately descends (in a wavelike fashion).</p>



Conclusion

- English and Russian intonation are different.
- Both languages use falling and rising intonation, but they are not the same.
- It's very important not to bring Russian intonation into English because intonation patterns from Russian may convey a different meaning in English and cause misunderstanding and even produce an unfavorable impression of you.

