

English intonation

Practice of Nuclear
Tones



Nuclear Tones in English

- Low Falling Tone
- Low Rising Tone
- High Falling Tone
- High Rising Tone
- Falling Rising Tone
- Rising Falling Tone

Contour typology

- IC1 – Low fall
 - IC2- Low rise
 - IC3 – High fall
 - IC4- High rise
 - IC5- Fall rise
 - IC6- Rise fall
- I think I'll be free on Sunday.
 - Can you tell me the time?
 - I'd like to try it again.
 - Had a good holiday?
 - It'll be hard to prove.
 - I'd love to live in a house like that.
 - I quite agree with you.

Low Falling Tone

- Assertive
- Final
- Categorical
- Reserved
- Cool
- Quiet
- Hostile

Low Falling Tone

only nucleous = 1 syllable

- ~~No.~~
- Do.
- Who?
- Why?
- Fine.
- Good.
- Right.

Low Falling Tone Nucleous + Tail

- **Have** you?
- **Is** it?
- **Can't** you?
- **Does** he?
- **Wire** him.
- **Wait** for her.
- **Show** me one.

Low Falling Tone

Prehead +Nucleous+Tail

- She **had** to.
- I'd **like** to.
- Of **course** not.
- A **friend** of mine.
- She **wasn't** there.
- You must **tell** me.
- One can **feel** it.

Low Falling Tone

Head (one syllable) + Nucleous

- 'Come here.
- Sit down.
- Don't leave.
- Look out.
- Ask John.
- How strange.
- What for?
- Where to?

Low Falling Tone

Prehead+Stepping head+ Nucleous+Tail

- She asked me to **go**.
- He doesn't speak much **English**.
- He is never very **punctual**.
- He left the room without a **word**.
- I saw her standing all **alone**.
- Then turn to the right at the end of the **street**
.

Low Rising Tone.

- Non final
- Encouraging
- Questioning
- Polite

Low Rising Tone (Nucleous only)

- Yes.
- Mind.
- Run
- Now.
- Who?
- Why?
- Watch.
- Stop.
- Good.

Low Rising Tone (Nucleous+Tail)

- Gently.
- Always.
- Is there?
- Can't you?
- Have one.
- That side.
- Hasn't she?
- Wait a bit.

Low rising Tone (Prehead+Nucleous+Tail)

- Remember.
- They **couldn't**.
- Is he **happy**?
- You must **tell** me.
- He'd **wait** for us.
- There **wasn't** one.
- He's **done** with it.

Low Rising Tone (Head+Nucleous)

- That's **good**.
- That's **all**.
- Never **mind**.
- I'll **see**.
- Not **yet**.
- Why **not**.
- How **soon**?
- Can you come to lunch **tomorrow**?
- Shall I answer the **door**?
- Have you heard the latest **news**?
- Can you tell me the shortest way to the **station**?

Low Falling and Low Rising Tones (Comparison)

Fall

- Yes.
- No.
- Stop.
- Does he?
- Aren't you?
- Wait for them.
- Wire him.

Rise

- Yes.
- No.
- Stop?
- Does he?
- Aren't you?
- Wait for them?
- Wire him?

High Falling Tone

Nucleus only

- Yes.
- Fine.
- Wait.
- More.
- Pull.
- Let's.
- Fancy!

Nucleus + tail

- Always.
- Really.
- **Can** you?
- **Stop** it.
- **Mightn't** they?
- **Wait** for them.
- Certainly.

High Falling Tone

Prehead+Nucleous+Tail

- Good **gracious!**
- How **lovely!**
- Good **morning.**
- It's **risky.**
- They **may** have.
- The **first** one.
- He'd wait for us.

Head+Nucleous

- 'Why **not?**
- 'Well **done!**
- 'That's **that.**
- 'I **say!**
- 'How **strange.**
- 'Look **out!**
- 'Thank **you!**
- 'Bad **luck!**

High Falling Tone

Prehead+Head+Nucleous+Tail

- I 'think you'd 'better 'ask the **others**.
- It's 'always 'better to **wait**.
- I 'couldn't say 'NO to **you**.
- In 'spring it 'rains a **lot**.
- 'Nobody 'told me 'what to **do** about it.
- 'Skiing is the 'sport for **you**.

Low fall vs High Fall vs Low Rise

Tones for comparison

| Low Fall | High Fall | Low Rise |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Run. | Run! | Run. |
| Good. | Good! | Good. |
| Does he? | Does he? | Does he? |
| Wait for them. | Wait for them. | Wait for them. |
| Is this the one? | Is this the one? | Is this the one? |
| 'Does she 'know the way ? | 'Does she 'know the way ? | 'Does she 'know the way ? |
| | | |
| | | |

High Rising Tone

- Echo question

High Rising Tone

Only Nucleous

Who?

Now?

Me?

What?

Where?

Nucleous + Tail

Really?

Badly?

Like it?

Suit me?

My fault?

High Rising Tone

Prehead+ Nucleous+Tail

You **like** him?

She **had** to?

You've **lost** it?

It's a **new** one?

It's an **extra**?

Head+Nucleous

'Ask **John**?

'Not **true**?

'Too **big**?

'Good **fit**?

'What **for**?

Hold tight?

No news?

High Rising Tone

Prehead+Head+Nucleous+Tail

A'nother 'cup of **tea**?

You 'don't **reg**'**ret** it?

You 'want it '**back**?

It's 'not the 'one you **want**?

It 'won't incon **venience** you?

She 'married 'Mary's **brother**?

'Something the **matter**, Ann?

'Back al ready, Mr Grey?

'Don't **worry**, did you say?

Tones for Comparison

| Low fall | High fall | Low rise | High rise |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Yes. | Yes! | Yes. | Yes? |
| No. | No! | No. | No? |
| Have you? | Have you? | Have you? | Have you? |
| Wait for them. | Wait for them. | Wait for them? | Wait for them? |
| Can't you? | Can't you ? | Can't you? | Can't you? |
| It's risky. | It's risky. | It's risky. | It's risky? |
| That's good . | That's good ! | That's good . | That's good ? |
| How strange . | How strange ! | How strange . | How strange ? |
| Next week . | Next week . | Next week . | Next week . |

Falling- Rising Tone

- Emphasizing
- Contradicting
- Implication

Falling- Rising Tone

| <i>One syllable</i> | <i>Two syllables</i> | <i>Three syllables</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes. | Always. | Be careful . |
| No. | Slowly. | It's easy . |
| Me | Quickly. | You couldn't . |
| More. | Often. | She might be . |
| True. | Thursday. | They may have . |
| Well. | Sorry. | He asked you. |
| Pull. | I did. | We broke it. |
| Run. | They can. | There 's plenty . |
| Tom's. | Have one. | Now re member . |

Falling- Rising Tone

Prehead+Head+Nucleous

- You 'said she **was**.
- We 'don't **like it**.
- He 'can't **hear me**.
- I'm 'not **wanted**.
- You 'can't go without a **hat**.
- We 'know where it **is**.

Fall Rise divided

| <i>Two syllables</i> | <i>One syllable in between</i> | <i>More syllables in between</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| That's right. | Do be quick! | He asked me to do it. |
| All right. Yes, please. | Jolly good! | You told me to ask her . |
| Come on. | Here you are! | How are you, Mr. Richards ? |
| Hullo! | Many thanks! | Well, what's the time , please? |
| That's good! | We don't mind. | |

Tones for comparison

| Low fall | High Fall | Low rise | High rise | Fall rise |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Good. | Good. | Good. | Good? | Good. |
| Borrow one. | Borrow one. | Borrow one. | Borrow one. | Borrow one. |
| It's risky. | It's risky. | It's risky. | It's risky? | It's risky. |

Rising – Falling Tone

- Impressed
- Humorous
- Mocking
- Surprised

Rising – Falling Tone

One-syllable type

Do.

Two.

Me.

Try.

Two – syllable type

Either.

Always.

Ask him.

Clearly.

Keep it.

Rising -Falling Tone (three syllable type)

- Naturally.
- Gratitude.
- Positive.
- Probably.
- Perfectly.
- You can go.
- That was good.

Rising -Falling Tone (prehead+ head+ nucleolus)

- Which **one**?
- Any time you **like**!
- I thought you **knew**.
- I simply **hated** it.
- How did you **manage** it?
- I'm much **obliged** to you all.