

# Intonation Practice



Intonation is the rise and fall of the voice when we are speaking. When we are reading aloud a sentence that has been written down, we use the rise and fall of our voices to stress certain words so that the intended meaning of the sentence is clear.

Read the following sentences aloud and stress the word that is in bold. Notice how the meaning of the sentence changes because you are changing your intonation.

<p><b>She</b> isn't flying to Spain tomorrow.</p>	<p>She isn't <b>flying</b> to Spain tomorrow.</p>	<p>She isn't flying to Spain <b>tomorrow</b>.</p>
<p>By stressing the word 'she', this sentence implies that someone else is flying to Spain tomorrow.</p>	<p>By stressing the word 'flying', this sentence implies that she is travelling to Spain using another mode of transport.</p>	<p>By stressing the word 'tomorrow', this sentence implies that she is flying to Spain at another point in time.</p>

Now, read the sentences and the intended meanings below. In each sentence, underline one word that you would need to stress to make the intended meaning clear when reading the sentence aloud. The first one has been done for you.

Intended Meaning	Sentence
The temperature of the stew was incorrect.	"I wanted a bowl of <u>hot</u> beef stew!" the guest erupted.
The speaker is no longer enjoying their ice cream.	"I was enjoying my ice cream," she began.
Frida wants the speaker to repeat their most recently spoken words.	"What did you just say to me?" asked Frida.
The speaker wants to emphasise the large number of things eaten.	We ate lots of cake and biscuits at the coffee morning.
The subject realised their error too late.	It was only then that I realised my catastrophic error.

# Intonation Practice Answers

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The temperature of the stew was incorrect.	"I wanted a bowl of <b>hot</b> beef stew!" the guest erupted.
The speaker is no longer enjoying their ice cream.	"I <b>was</b> enjoying my ice cream," she began.
Frida wants the speaker to repeat their most recently spoken words.	"What did you <b>just</b> say to me?" asked Frida.
The speaker wants to emphasise the large number of things eaten.	We ate <b>lots</b> of cake and biscuits at the coffee morning.
The subject realised their error too late.	It was only <b>then</b> that I realised my catastrophic error.