

Tone 1
tonic
pretonic

Tone 2
tonic
pretonic

Tone 3
pretonic

Tone 4
tonic

Tone 5
tonic

Unit 15

Intonation (3):

the secondary tones of English and their meaning

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

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English Phonetics: Unit 15:

[ˈɪŋ.gəlɪʃ fə.ˈneɪ.tɪks ˈjʊ:n.ɪt fɪf.ˈti:n]

Intonation (3)

[ˌɪn.tə.ˈneɪʃ.ən ˈθri:]

the secondary tones of English and their meaning

[ðə ˈsek.ən.dɪ.i ˈtʰəʊnz əv ˈɪŋ.gəlɪʃ əŋ ðeə ˈmi:n.ɪŋ]

Robert Spence

[ˈɹɒb.ət ˈspɛns]

based on material by M. A. K. Halliday

[ˈbeɪst ɒn mə.ˈtʰɪəɪ.i.əl baɪ ˈem eɪ kʰeɪ ˈhæl.ɪd.eɪ]

Outline

Tone 1

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Tone 5

tonic

① **Tone 1**
tonic
pretonic

② **Tone 2**
tonic
pretonic

③ **Tone 3**
pretonic

④ **Tone 4**
tonic

⑤ **Tone 5**
tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 1 (tonic)

Tone 1 medium

tonic fall starts at same height as last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: neutral)

// .1. John's de- / cided to be- / come a * / doctor //

Tone 1 wide

tonic fall starts higher than last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: strong / unexpected)

// .1+ ^ it's the / only / place I've / ever * / lived in //

Tone 1 narrow

tonic fall starts lower than last syllable of pretonic
(KEY: mild / expected)

// .1- how can an / ashtray be * / vegetable //(‘20 Fragen’)

Secondary tones of Tone 1 (pretonic)

Tone 1 level

each pretonic foot has level tone; pretonic feet at same height (before medium fall), stepping up (before wide fall), stepping down (before narrow fall)

(KEY (FORCE): neutral) (examples: previous slide)

Tone 1 bouncing

each pretonic foot 'bounces' (down and up)
often with 'wide' tonic

(KEY (FORCE): forceful)

// ₋₁₊ why don't you / ask him to / give you your * / money back //

Tone 1 listing

pretonic resembles sequence of tone 3 + tone 3 (...)

// _{...1.} _^ a / pound of / apples / _^ a / grapefruit / _^ and / half a dozen * /

_^ oranges //

Secondary tones of Tone 2 (tonic)

Tone 2 rising

unmarked: 'normal question'

//₂. have you / seen their / new */ house //

Tone 2 falling-rising

tonic falls (focus) then rises (speech function), sharp change of direction

marked: 'specifying the point of the query'

//₂ have you / seen their / new * / house //

* //₂ couldn't we go / out / just for an / hour / Daphne //

* //₂ honestly //

* //₂ why //

φωv

Intonation (3):

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tonic

Secondary tones of Tone 2 (pretonic)

Tone 2 high

pretonic feet are high and level

KEY: neutral

// .2 have you / seen their / new */ house //

Tone 2 low

pretonic feet are low and level

KEY: intense (surprise / disapproval / concern)

(in U.S. English: neutral)

// -2. don't you / think you */ ought to / tell them //

φωv

Intonation (3):

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Secondary tones of Tone 3 (pretonic)

Tone 3 mid

pretonic feet are mid and level
(KEY: confirmatory / reassuring)

//_{.3} ^ I / don't sup- / pose it / really * / matters //

Tone 3 low

pretonic feet are low and level
(KEY: unconcerned / uncertain)

//₋₃ ^ I / don't sup- / pose it / really * / matters //

Neither of these choices of pretonic is available before the 'tone 3'
tonic segment of compound tones 13 and 53.

φωv

Intonation (3):

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Secondary tones of Tone 4 (tonic)

Tone 4 high (preselects down-stepping pretonic)
each pretonic foot level, last syllable of pretonic falls slightly
(neutral: logical complication of some kind)

//₄. ^ if he / had any / common */ sense //

Tone 4 low (preselects swinging pretonic)
each pretonic foot falls and rises, with main force of fall
(marked: exclusive / contrastive / expressing strong reservation)

//₄ ^ but it / certainly / couldn't be */ animal //

(context: '20 Fragen')

φωv

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Secondary tones of Tone 5 (tonic)

Tone 5 high (preselects up-stepping pretonic)
each pretonic foot level; last syllable of pretonic rises slightly
(neutral, expressing strong assertion / override / surprise)

//₅. it's / simply / not */ true //

Tone 5 low (preselects swinging pretonic)
each pretonic foot rises and falls, with main force on rise
(intense, showing awe or disappointment)

//₅ look at that / lovely old */ steam engine //

Tone 5 low with breathy voice quality: awe
Tone 5 low with normal voice quality: sarcasm

φωv

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