Unit 13
Lesson Plan
(With Notes for Teachers)
Types of Intonation in English

Date: Dec., 9-13
Class: Classes 1, 2 & 3, Grade 2011
Subject: English Pronunciation for Communication

Purpose:
The students will learn types of intonation in English.

Objectives: Students will be able to:
1. Define - in their own words a definition for intonation.
2. Compare – based on the understanding of the basic concept, compare different types of intonation in speech;
3. Practice – imitate the stress patterns and intonation and do practice.

Resources/Materials:
2. Handouts: illustration of stress patterns and rhythmic pattern;
3. Recordings of native speakers

Activities and Procedures:
1. Warming-up: Asking the class to read the following phrases in falling tone and rising tone, pay attention to the types of intonation in English.
   (1) A friend in need is a friend indeed.
   (2) There is no smoke without fire.
   (3) Pass me that book, will you? --- Thank you.
   (4) A: Can I help you?
      B: No, thanks.
   (5) A: Mr. B.
      B: Yes?
2. Display examples by playing the recording of the native speakers showing the typical pronunciation in English.
3. Have the students notice the definition of intonation in focus.
   • Intonation: It is often called the melody of language since it refers to the pattern of pitch changes that we use when we speak. By pitch changes we mean the rise and fall of the voice in connected speech. Consisting of different pitch changes.
   • Intonation: It is the musical feature of an utterance. Pitch changes on stressed syllables determine the intonation patterns of an utterance.
   • Intonation: It is actually the combination of stress and pitch variations.
4. Have the students to read the following sentence in different tones and point out the differences
   Pair work:
   A: Mary has married to John.
   B: Really.
5. Have the students listen to the conversations recorded by native speakers of English and try to get the sounds in focus correct in their pronunciation.
6. Have the students practice the guided conversation. Ask them to pay special attention to the intonation.
   Practice:
   A: Well it’s certainly cheap.
      And the service…
      Very good.
      I particularly like that soup.
      Oh.
   B: --- He died in an accident last night.
      --- What?
      --- I’ve got a golden watch from my grandfather.
      --- Really?
7. Have the students practice the guided conversation. Ask them to pay special attention to the tones of the words underlined while reading. stress.
   Practice:
   A: Tom broke the window.
      He also translated the announcement.
      I like some cheese, please.
      What kind of cheese?
   B: He lives in Beijing.
      Do you come from Beijing?
      You come from Beijing.
      My son who studies in Beijing wishes to become a teacher.
8. Comment on the students’ performance by highlighting the achievement of the students and the efforts they need for the improvement.
9. Give advice to the students.
   **Semantic Function:**
   By the semantic function of intonation we mean that intonation may differentiate the meaning of an utterance.
   **Attitudinal Function:**
   The tone we use can tell people a lot about our feeling, our circumstances or surroundings, transcending the words we actually employ; It can indicate our attitude to other people, whether we are being polite, considerate, concerned, sympathetic, indifferent, etc.
   **Grammatical Function:**
   Intonation is closely related to grammar or a part of grammar, in much the same way as punctuation is in the written language.
• Accentual Function:
  Intonation helps to produce the effect of prominence on syllables that need to be perceived as stressed, and in particular the placing of tonic stress on a particular syllable marks out the word to which it belongs as the most important in the tone-unit.

10. Ask the students to do more practice after class and get ready for presentation during the next session.

11. Summary of the English Back Vowels: The English back vowels have the following features in common:
• Generally, intonation has four functions: semantic function; attitudinal function; grammatical function; accentual function.
• There are four forms of intonation: falling, rising, falling-rising and rising-falling.

12. After-class assignments: Make sentences in different forms, including statements, wh-questions, imperatives and exclamations. Read aloud those sentences made students themselves and pay attention to different tones.

Notes for Teachers

Types of Intonation in English
In this unit, we will learn types of intonation in English.

We call the melody of language intonation. Intonation refers to the total pattern of pitch changes, i.e., the rising and falling of the voice when a person is speaking, within an utterance. Intonation is another important element of spoken English. It is the English intonation which makes English sound really English.

Intonation makes speech meaningful. English intonation adds the meaning of an utterance in two ways:
A. It shows the relationship of words within and between sentences;
B. It tells something about the feeling of the speaker.

In other words, different pitches may indicate different meanings for the same utterance. Different pitches help us express our feelings: happiness, sadness, surprise, annoyance, anger, and so on. In listening to the meaning of an utterance, therefore, we listen to how speakers talk as well as to what they say. The HOW and WHAT together give us the meaning of an English utterance.

We now see the importance to use the appropriate intonation patterns when we speak. Otherwise, we may be sending messages using intonations that contradict what we want words to say. Intonation patterns that disagree with the content of the utterance may indicate doubt, sarcasm, or confusion.

Basic intonation patterns

English has two basic intonation patterns: rising and falling. When they go together, they can make a falling-rising tone.

Look at the following Example:
a) -- Is John in?
-- No, John's not in.

b) -- Is John in?
-- No, John's not in.

"Is John is?" has rising intonation. The pitch of the voice goes up at the end of the utterance. The speaker is asking a question. "No, John's not in" in a) has falling intonation. The pitch of the voice goes down at the end of the utterance. The speaker is answering a question. "No, John's not in" in b) has falling-rising intonation. The pitch of the voice goes down first and then goes up at the end of the utterance. The speaker is answering a question with implication, such as: John's not in, but his wife/sister/brother is.

Types of intonation patterns we have to learn

English can very well be spoken correctly and naturally with the three intonation patterns: falling, rising and falling-rising.