



## What Is Intonation?

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Intonation is the **rise** and **fall** of your voice when you speak. I.e. the musical pattern of your speech.

Intonation plays a vital role in English communication as it conveys **emotion**, **attitude** and **intention** on top of information.

# What is Intonation?

When you say “*Really?*” with a rising tone, you sound surprised or interested.

When you say “*Really?*” with a falling tone, you sound like you don’t believe the person.

Even though the words are the same, the intonation changes the meaning.

# Why Is Intonation Important?



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Good intonation helps you sound clear, confident and natural in English.

Native speakers use it to show feelings, help listeners understand what is important in a sentence and indicate whether the speaker has finished speaking or is still continuing.

If you use the wrong intonation, people might misunderstand you

Is It Different  
To Stress And  
Rhythm?



# Is It Different To Stress and Rhythm?

Intonation, stress and rhythm are all parts of English pronunciation but they are not the same thing.

	Feature	Example
Intonation	The rise and fall of the pitch in your voice	<i>Really? (rising)</i> <i>Really? (falling)</i>
Stress	Some syllables or words are stronger than others	<i>I <u>didn't</u> go to the shops.</i>
Rhythm	The whole pattern of stressed and unstressed words in a sentence	<i>I <u>went</u> to the <u>shops</u> to <u>buy</u> some <u>bread</u>.</i>



# Is It Different To Stress and Rhythm?

Think of English as music.

Stress gives it a beat.

Rhythm gives it the flow.

Intonation gives it the melody.

Using all three correctly will give you smooth, expressive and native-like speech.