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Beginner lessons for Stress and Intonation

Mastering Stress and Intonation for Effective Communication

DEFINITION

> Stress refers to the emphasis placed on certain syllables or words, while intonation is the rise and fall of voice pitch in speech. Both are crucial for clear and natural pronunciation.

KEY CONCEPTS

Word Stress

This is the emphasis placed on a specific syllable within a word, affecting its meaning.

Sentence Stress

This refers to the emphasis on certain words in a sentence, highlighting important information.

Intonation Patterns

These are the variations in pitch while speaking, indicating questions, statements, or emotions.

Rising Intonation

This occurs when the pitch of the voice rises at the end of a sentence, often used in yes/no questions.

Falling Intonation

This happens when the pitch falls at the end of a sentence, commonly used in statements and commands.

EXAMPLES

→ REcord vs. reCORD

→ I didn't SAY that.

→ Are you coming?

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'stress' as 'emphasis' to link it to important words.

★ Think of intonation as a musical scale, where your voice goes up and down.

★ Use the acronym S.I.R. for Stress, Intonation, and Rhythm to recall key elements.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Not stressing the correct syllable in multi-syllable words.

✗ Using a flat tone instead of varying pitch.

✗ Misplacing stress in compound words, changing their meaning.

QUICK RECAP

Understanding stress and intonation is essential for clear communication. Focus on emphasizing key words and using appropriate pitch variations to convey meaning effectively.