

## English Intonation

Intonation – the rise and fall of pitch in our voices – plays a crucial role in how we express meaning. This accessible introduction shows the student how to recognize and reproduce the intonation patterns of English, providing clear explanations of what they mean and how they are used. It looks in particular at three key functions of intonation – to express our attitude, to structure our messages to one another, and to focus attention on particular parts of what we are saying. An invaluable guide to how English intonation works, it is complete with extensive exercises, drills and practice material, encouraging students to produce and understand the intonation patterns for themselves. The accompanying CD contains a wealth of spoken examples, clearly demonstrating English intonation in context. Drawing on the perspectives of both language teaching and linguistics, this textbook will be welcomed by both learners of English and beginning undergraduates in phonetics and linguistics.

J. C. WELLS is Professor of Phonetics in the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics, UCL. He has lectured in countries all over the world and makes regular appearances on BBC Radio and TV. He is author of the three-volume set *Accents of English* (Cambridge University Press, 1982).

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## Preface

This book is written from a descriptive-linguistic and language-teaching perspective. It is intended both for native speakers and for learners of English at university level. My aim is to help the reader to recognize and reproduce the important intonation patterns of English and to understand what they mean and how they are used. The emphasis is on conversational English.

My debt to my teachers J. D. O'Connor and Michael Halliday will be evident. Among more recent writers on intonation I would particularly mention Paul Tench, to whom I owe the idea of devoting a separate chapter to each of the three Ts. My other main sources are listed in the References.

I have benefited from many discussions over the years with my colleagues Michael Ashby, Patricia Ashby, Jill House and John Maidment. Email discussions on the Supras list were stimulating, particularly the input from Tamikazu Date. Mercedes Cabrera offered useful comments on a draft version. Thanks to all.

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