

"Intonation" is a part of all languages. It is the way the voice raises or drops in a sentence depending on the word or the position of the word. The rules for intonation are very simple in English. In English, you raise or drop your voice only at the end of the sentence. Otherwise, your intonation is level. Here are the rules for raising or dropping your voice.

1. If the sentence is a statement, drop your voice at the end of the sentence.

Examples: Please listen to the tape and repeat.

1. Mary is student in this class.
2. The freeway is very crowded at four o'clock.
3. I used to play soccer.
4. I bought a lot of fish and vegetables at the store.
5. Mission Campus is a very good place to learn English.
6. Stan painted the ceiling very well.
7. I wrote you an e-mail last week, but I didn't hear from you.
8. English grammar is difficult, but interesting.
9. She took this class last semester, and she's taking it again.
10. The classes are very full in August and September.

2. If the sentence is an information question, drop your voice at the end of the sentence. An information question begins with "Wh" question words such as: When, Where, Why, What, Who, Whose. Also, question words include "How" + adjective, such as: How much, How many, How often, How long, How wide, How tall, How far, etcetera.

Examples: Please listen to the tape and repeat.

1. When did you move to the United States?
 2. How far is your house from Mission Campus?
 3. What morning newspaper do you usually read?
 4. Why aren't there more classes for ESL students?
 5. Whose green umbrella is this?
 6. Who are you going to take a trip to Canada with?
 7. How many students are enrolled in our evening classes?
 8. How much does a personal computer cost?
 9. Where can I find the nearest laundromat?
 10. How tall is your youngest sister?
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