

English Pronunciation: Intonation Patterns

Level B1 · Lesson 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 44

Language Focus: Rising and Falling Intonation

Intonation is the way your voice's pitch rises and falls across a sentence. It's not just about which word is stressed — it's the melody of the whole utterance, and it changes meaning.

Pattern	Used for	Examples
Falling ↘	Statements, commands, Wh- questions, the last item in a list	What time is it? ↘ Close the door. ↘
Rising ↗	Yes/No questions, non-final items in a list, checking or showing interest	Are you ready? ↗ Is this seat free? ↗

Rule of thumb: If a question can be answered with "yes" or "no", your voice usually rises at the end. If the question starts with a Wh- word (what, where, who, why, how), your voice usually falls.

Hear the difference

What's your name? (Wh- question — falling)

Are you hungry? (Yes/No question — rising)

Try saying both sentences yourself, letting your pitch fall on the first and rise on the second — the meaning is clear even without any words changing.

Exercise 1: True or False (8 points)

1. "What time is it?" uses falling intonation. True / False
2. "Do you like tea?" uses falling intonation. True / False
3. "Close the door." uses falling intonation. True / False
4. "Are you coming?" uses falling intonation. True / False
5. "Where is the bathroom?" uses falling intonation. True / False
6. "Can I help you?" uses falling intonation. True / False
7. "I live in Dublin." uses falling intonation. True / False
8. "Is this your bag?" uses falling intonation. True / False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle whether each sentence uses rising or falling intonation.

1. "How old are you?" a) Falling b) Rising
2. "Have you finished?" a) Falling b) Rising
3. "Sit down." a) Falling b) Rising
4. "Would you like some tea?" a) Falling b) Rising
5. "What's the matter?" a) Falling b) Rising
6. "Did you call her?" a) Falling b) Rising
7. "She lives nearby." a) Falling b) Rising
8. "Are you sure?" a) Falling b) Rising

Exercise 3: Matching (8 points)

Say each sentence aloud. Write a or b to show its intonation pattern.

a) Falling b) Rising

Sentence	Pattern (a or b)
1. Why are you late?	_____
2. Do you need help?	_____
3. Turn left here.	_____
4. Is this seat taken?	_____
5. Who called you?	_____
6. Will you be there?	_____
7. The train is late.	_____
8. Did you see that?	_____

Exercise 4: Word Sort (12 points)

Write each sentence in the correct box.

- What do you want?
- Open the window.
- He's from Spain.
- How much is it?
- Stop talking.
- She's a teacher.
- Do you want coffee?
- Can you drive?
- Is he coming?
- Have you eaten?
- Would you like more?
- Are they ready?

Falling	Rising

Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

Write "falling" or "rising" to classify the intonation of each sentence.

1. "What's your favourite colour?" — this uses _____ intonation.
2. "Do you play tennis?" — this uses _____ intonation.
3. "Wait here." — this uses _____ intonation.
4. "Can you hear me?" — this uses _____ intonation.
5. "Where did you go?" — this uses _____ intonation.
6. "Is the shop open?" — this uses _____ intonation.
7. "I need some help." — this uses _____ intonation.
8. "Would you mind?" — this uses _____ intonation.

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Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. "What time is it?" uses falling intonation. — True
2. "Do you like tea?" uses falling intonation. — False
3. "Close the door." uses falling intonation. — True
4. "Are you coming?" uses falling intonation. — False
5. "Where is the bathroom?" uses falling intonation. — True
6. "Can I help you?" uses falling intonation. — False
7. "I live in Dublin." uses falling intonation. — True
8. "Is this your bag?" uses falling intonation. — False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. "How old are you?" — correct answer: a) Falling ↘
2. "Have you finished?" — correct answer: b) Rising ↗
3. "Sit down." — correct answer: a) Falling ↘
4. "Would you like some tea?" — correct answer: b) Rising ↗
5. "What's the matter?" — correct answer: a) Falling ↘
6. "Did you call her?" — correct answer: b) Rising ↗
7. "She lives nearby." — correct answer: a) Falling ↘
8. "Are you sure?" — correct answer: b) Rising ↗

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

- Why are you late? — a) Falling ↘
- Do you need help? — b) Rising ↗
- Turn left here. — a) Falling ↘
- Is this seat taken? — b) Rising ↗
- Who called you? — a) Falling ↘

Will you be there? — b) Rising ↗

The train is late. — a) Falling ↘

Did you see that? — b) Rising ↗

Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers

Falling: What do you want?; Open the window.; He's from Spain.; How much is it?; Stop talking.; She's a teacher.

Rising: Do you want coffee?; Can you drive?; Is he coming?; Have you eaten?; Would you like more?; Are they ready?

Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers

1. What's your favourite colour? — Falling ↘

2. Do you play tennis? — Rising ↗

3. Wait here. — Falling ↘

4. Can you hear me? — Rising ↗

5. Where did you go? — Falling ↘

6. Is the shop open? — Rising ↗

7. I need some help. — Falling ↘

8. Would you mind? — Rising ↗