

# **TONES AND STATEMENTS**

**By Facundo Pignanelli & Agustina Pepe Schell**



Intonation → Melody of speech to convey meaning

**TONE**, as a prosodic characteristic of intonation, is analyzed in relation to rhythm and voice pitch

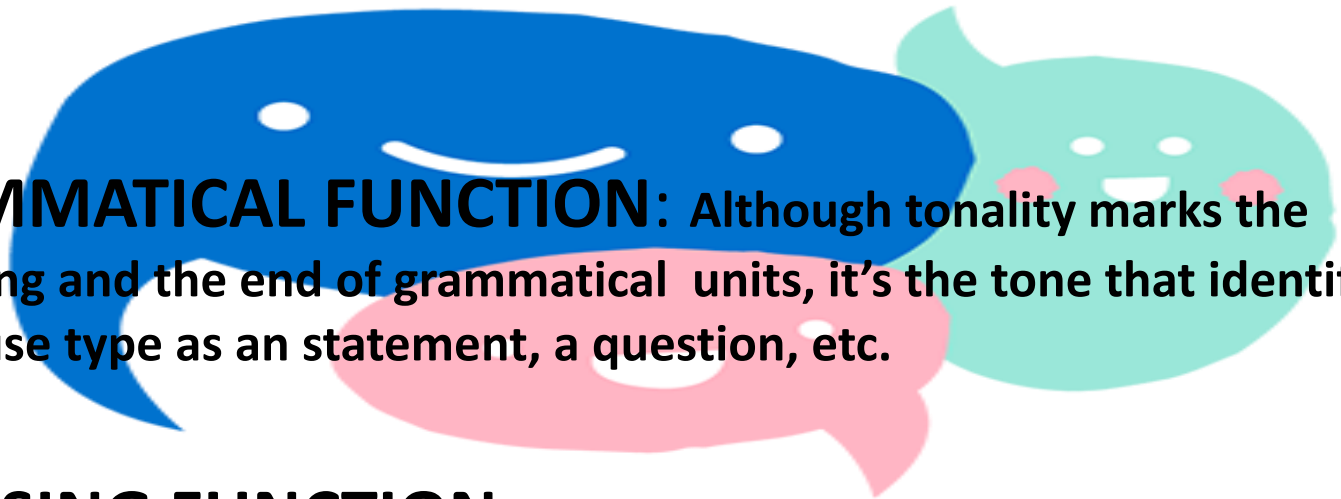


# **TONE** in functions of intonation

- **ATTITUDINAL FUNCTION:** Surprise, pleasure, sarcasm, anger or boredom are examples of emotions and attitudes that are expressed by tone.

- **GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION:** Although tonality marks the beginning and the end of grammatical units, it's the tone that identifies the clause type as an statement, a question, etc.

- **FOCUSING FUNCTION:** We use tonicity and and accentuation combined with tone to highlight or emphasize new information in an utterance (or not if the information is old)



# Fall, Rise and Fall rise

*STATEMENTS FALL AND QUESTION RISE?*

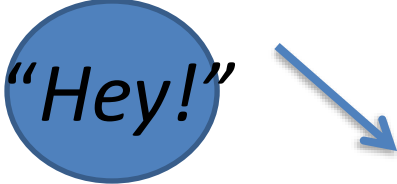



*NOT ALWAYS!*



# FALLS

The pitch starts relatively high and then goes downwards, whether the nucleus is the only syllable or the last in the IP

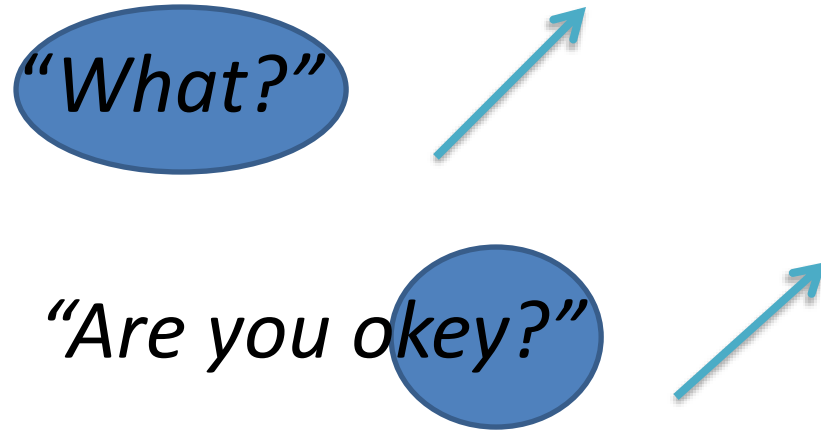
- “Hey!” 
- “That is amazing!” 

*We can also spot a step up in the pitch as we are reaching the nucleus and it's tone fall*

# RISES

In this case, the pitch starts relatively low and then goes upwards.

If the nucleus is on the last or only syllable in the phrase, the rise takes place on that syllable.



*Although the high pitch spreads all over the phrase, we can spot a step down before the highest pitch in the IP (which is often at the very end)*

# **MAKING STATEMENTS**



# DEFINITIVE FALL

Statements can take any tone, but they almost often have a **fall tone**. By using a fall we indicate that we say is **complete** and that we express it with **confidence**. We call this tone meaning the **definitive fall**.

*"This is a pen."*

*"We're ready."*

*"I'm delighted to meet you."*



## IMPLICATIONAL FALL-RISE

The use of a rise or a **fall-rise** indicates that the utterance being pronounced is part of a larger structure.

We use it when we want to **imply something that we are not putting into words.**

We call this the **implicational fall-rise.**

*“Well, I know her **face.**”*



*“I could see you on **Wednesday.**”*




*“Well, We’ve got some **strawberries.**”*



## IMPLICATIONAL FALL-RISE

We can also use the **implicational fall-rise** when we are **tentative** about what we are saying.

It is also used to make **polite corrections**.

*“I **think** so, but I’m not quite sure.”* 

*“She is coming on Tuesday”.*

*“**No**, on **Thursday**”.* 

*“**No**, on **Thursday**”.* 

## IMPLICATIONAL FALL-RISE

We use this tone when we want to make **partial statements** or **partial corrections**.

*“Well, the **fish** was good.”*


*“Green and blue are primary colours.”*

*“Well, **blue** is. But **green** isn’t.”*


## DECLARATIVE QUESTIONS

In English, a yes/no question involves the inversion of the subject and verb. There is also the **declarative question**, that function grammatically like statements.

They can take a rising tone, a rise-fall tone or just a fall tone.

*“You’ll be coming to dinner?”* 

*“You didn’t go and tell him?”* 

*“So, we’ll be free by six, then?”* 

## UPTALK

Since the 1980's a new use of the rising tone has started to be heard in English. Called *High-Rising Terminal* or *Uptalk*.

It is used under circumstances were a fall would have been used by an older generation.

"Old" Speak

"I'm a customer **service** agent."



Uptalk

"I'm a customer **service** agent."



## YES/NO & ELLIPTICAL ANSWERS

A yes/no answer is usually not a complete utterance. We support it by using an elliptical verb phrase or use the verb phrase just on its own.

*“No, I **haven’t** been to Pyongyang.”*

*“**Never.**”*

*“**Of course!**”*

**THE END**

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!**