

Stress

Stress means emphasis. If we make a sound with more energy, the sound will come out with force, if we make a sound with less energy, the sound will come out with less force. This indicates that there are degrees of stress.

The degree of force with which sound or a syllable or a word is uttered is stress.

Jones says it is a degree of force with which a speaker pronounces a word or a syllable.

Kinds of Stress:

1. Syllable stress

There is variation in stress on syllable in English. The main point concerning it are as following

Doc/tor, sis/ter, un/known, pho/to/gra/phy(Three syllable)

2. Word Stress

In word stress there is stress on one syllable or more syllables of a word contains two syllable.

Word stress on first syllable: 'father, 'doctor, 'carriage

Stress on second syllable : to'morrow, des'cribe

3. Sentence Stress

In a sentence some words are more important than others and this is indicated by stressing the words. Difference in stress leads to difference in the meaning. For instance

a) Do' you drink tea?

If the stress is on you, it means, it is surprising to see that you drink tea.

b) Do you ' drink tea?

This sentence with the stress on drink would mean that one does not drink tea but that one should sip it.

c) Do you drink ' tea?

This sentence with the stress on tea would mean that the questioner is surprised to note that the person whom he questioner drinks tea not coffee or milk etc.,

Intonation:

The rise and fall of pitch in voice is intonation. In other words, intonation is the variation in pitch. It is done by, slacking or tightening our vocal-cords and the sound. In pronunciation, intonation is very important. Just a change of pitch can change the meaning.

F.W Frisby says “ Much of the meaning of spoken language is conveyed by the tune to which it is set”.

S Allen says “ by intonation is meant the melody of speech, the changing pitch of the voice. It is to a certain extent controlled by stress, because important changes in pitch occur only on stressed syllables.

Types of intonations

1. Falling intonation:

What's the time now

It is nine O' clock

What a wonderful idea!

2. Rising Intonation:

He came, had a cup of coffee and then left in a hurry