



Stress and rhythm

Which of the following readings is the most natural? (Circle the letter.)

NB: slash (/) = new foot, i.e. rhythmic stress; caret sign (^) = silent beat.

- / “and what / is the / use of a / book,” thought A- / lice, / “without / ^ pictures or conver- / sations?”
- “and / what / is the use of a / book,” / thought A- / lice, “with- / ^ out / pictures / or / conversations?”
- “and / what is the / use of a / book,” / ^ thought / Alice, / ^ “without / pictures or / conver- / sations?”
- “and / what / is the use of a / book,” / ^ thought / Alice, / ^ “without / pictures / or / conversations?”
- “and / ^ what is the / use of a / book,” / thought Alice, / “without / pictures or con- / versations?”

Tonicity and Information Structure

The utterance // can / tigers * / climb / trees // is analysed below in five different ways:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| can | tigers | climb | trees |
| Given → | | Focus | Given → |
| New | | | |
- | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| can | tigers | climb | trees |
| Given → | | Focus | Given → |
| | | New | |
- | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| can | tigers | climb | trees |
| Given → | | | Focus |
| | | | New |
- | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------|---------|
| can | tigers | climb | trees |
| ← | | Focus | Given → |
| | | New | |
- | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------|-------|
| can | tigers | climb | trees |
| ← | Focus | | |



Listening exercise on English intonation: tone

Please circle either **a** or **b**:

1. Which of the following two utterances expresses 'reservation' (= 'Vorbehalte'; 'réserves, doutes')?

a **b**

2. Which of the following two utterances expresses 'reassurance' (= 'Beruhigung', 'réconfort')?

a **b**

3. Which of the following two utterances is more 'polite' ('höflich'; 'poli')?

a **b**

4. Which of the following two utterances sounds 'impatient' ('ungeduldig'; 'impatient')?

a **b**

5. Which of the following two utterances sounds 'unfinished' ('unvollendet'; 'inachevé')?

a **b**



The example utterances, as spoken

1. a. // _{.1.} [^] It's / very ef-^{*}/ ficient //

1. b. // ₄ [^] It's / very ef-^{*}/ ficient //

2. a. // _{.1.} [^] They'll / soon be ^{*}/ here //

2. b. // _{.3} [^] They'll / soon be ^{*}/ here //

3. a. // _{.1.} What's the ^{*}/ time //

3. b. // _{.2.} What's the ^{*}/ time //

4. a. // _{.2.} Are you ^{*}/ satisfied //

4. b. // _{.1.} Are you ^{*}/ satisfied //

5. a. // _{.2.} Did you play ^{*}/ tennis // _{.1.} [^] or ^{*}/ golf //

5. b. // _{.2.} Did you play ^{*}/ tennis // _{.2.} [^] or ^{*}/ golf //



Primary Tone

1) Which of the following utterances implies a closed (rather than an open) set of options? (Circle the letter.)

- a.
 // _{.2.} would you like some */ tea // _{1.} ^ or some */ coffee //
- b.
 // _{.2.} would you like some */ tea // _{2.} ^ or some */ coffee //

2) Which of the following utterances is more tentative, deferential, or polite? (Circle the letter.)

- a.
 // _{.2.} what's the */ time //
- b.
 // _{.1.} what's the */ time //

3) Which of the following utterances sounds less like a command, and more like an invitation?

- a.
 // _{.3} Tell me / what you */ saw //
- b.
 // _{.1.} Tell me / what you */ saw //

4) Which of the following utterances has the most normal tone sequence for a hypotactic (Nebensatz plus Hauptsatz) construction?

- a.
 // _{4.} ^ if we / don't */ hurry we're // _{1.} going to be */ late //
- b.
 // _{.3} ^ if we / don't */ hurry we're // _{1.} going to be */ late //
- c.
 // _{.1.} ^ if we / don't */ hurry we're // _{1.} going to be */ late //



Secondary Tone

1) Which of the following utterances suggests that the new information is unsurprising, or expected? (Circle the letter.)

a. // _{.1-} ^ You're / just like my / maiden * / aunt //

b. // _{.1+} ^ You're / just like my / maiden * / aunt //

2) Which of the following two utterances suggests (in British English but not in American English) an underlying tone of concern or disapproval? (Circle the letter.)

a. // _{.2} don't you / think you * / ought to / tell them //

b. // ₋₂ don't you / think you * / ought to / tell them //

3) Which of the following two utterances sounds more genuinely reassuring?

a. // ₋₃ ^ I / don't sup- / pose it / really * / matters //

b. // _{.3} ^ I / don't sup- / pose it / really * / matters //

4) Which of the following three utterances expresses awe (*Ehrfurcht*), rather than surprise, or sarcasm?

a. // _{.5} look at that / lovely old * / steam engine //(normal voice quality)

b. // _{.5} look at that / lovely old * / steam engine //

c. // _{.5} look at that / lovely old * / steam engine //(breathy voice quality)