

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

When we talk, we want people to listen – we want to keep their attention. We can do this with the sound of our voice. Good speakers pause, put emphasis on keywords and phrases, and use intonation to make sure what they say has impact.

Practice

1 Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- a When we pause, we wait a moment before saying something. _____
- b We use stress to add emphasis. *Stress* and *emphasis* mean more or less the same thing. _____
- c When we put emphasis on a word, our voice is quieter. _____
- d When we are excited about what we are saying, our intonation is flat. _____
- e People probably want to listen more when our intonation rises and falls. _____
- f We only use pauses, stress and intonation in formal or academic situations. _____

2 Read the sentence and then work with a partner. Can you say it in different ways so that it means different things?

Ibrahim's sister is studying in London.

3 **02** Listen to five different ways of saying the sentence from Exercise 2. Each time the speaker uses different pauses, stress and intonation. Match the five ways of saying it (a–e) to the meanings below.

- _____ not Ibrahim's brother
- _____ not in Liverpool
- _____ not working
- _____ not Ahmed's sister
- _____ it's true – I'm not joking

4 Work in pairs. One of you says one of the five sentences – the other says which of the meanings from Exercise 3 is intended. Then swap roles.

5 Read the transcript. The speaker is very positive about her activity tracker. In pairs, predict where she will pause, which words she will stress most strongly, and where she will use noticeable intonation.

I love this gadget. It's very easy to use. I just put it on and forget about it all week. I can sleep with it on, and it's waterproof, so I don't take it off when I shower. It has a long battery life, so I only need to charge it once a week. It comes in two sizes, small and large. The small size is perfect for my wrist. I mainly use it for tracking my activities during the workday. My goal is 10,000 steps every day. I like it because it's good motivation for me to be more active.

6 ▶ **03 Listen and check your answers to Exercise 5.**


7  **Give short talks in groups of three or four.**

- Working on your own, plan a short talk about a favourite possession. It could be a technological gadget (like the talk in Exercise 5) or something else you want to talk about.
- Rehearse the talk alone. Pay attention to pausing, emphasizing and intonation.
- Stand up and give the talk to your group, with the intention of holding listeners' attention. Use body language as appropriate.
- Give feedback to other students in the group.

8  **Work in pairs. Student 1 is red and Student 2 is blue.**

- Plan what you will say to persuade your partner that your colour is better.
- Have an argument. Use your voice (and body language) to try to win the argument.

Reflect

9  **Discuss the questions.**

- Do you feel more confident using pauses, stress and intonation to help you hold a listener's attention?
- Which of the three features do you find most difficult to integrate into your spoken language?
- Will you think about these speech features the next time you have to talk in class or give a presentation?