INSPIRING VOICE



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

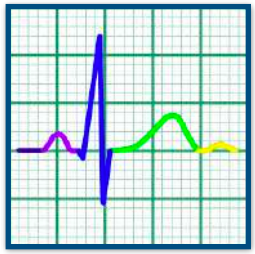
Learn about intonation and pitch and practice using it. Practice using linking words to structure your ideas. Learn techniques for public speaking in English. Comprehension activities.

Introduction - Let's listen to something really inspiring… https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qx2lMaMsl8 Which musical voices inspire you?

Activity One: **Ask and answer** with your teacher or partner.

1. When you are in meetings or presentations do you sometimes get bored?
2. What is the most inspiring speach you have every heard?
3. What do you think it takes to be inspiring when you speak in public?
4. Do you think that you can be inspiring or at least convince and influence other people when you speak in English?
5. When you speak French what tehniques do you use if you want to inspire others?

Activity Two: **Tone of voice.**



In English pitch is very important whenever we speak. In public speaking the tone of your voice is even more important. Let's learn some more about using pitch and tone in English speaking.

Pitch Levels - We can use Low Pitch, Neutral Pitch, High Pitch and Extra High Pitch to convey different meanings in English.

Pitch Movement or **inflection**)- We can use a sharp rise and fall type of pitch movement, a low-rise type, low-mid rise, a falling type, among others. These are all types of movement from rising to falling, or falling to rising pitch that we can use when we want to emphasize a certain point. This creates certain intonation patterns in addition to those created by saying some words louder and others more quietly, or some quickly and others more slowly, in order to emphasize key words.(Word stress).

Word stress can actually change the meaning of what we are saying in English - here's a good example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwcVw9MdNA8

Inflection Types - the main types of inflection are -Upward – Downward – Level – and Circumflex. Here are some indications about what they mean most often:

***Upward* Inflection** This is when there is a change in pitch going from a lower to a higher note within the vowel Most often, this change in pitch indicates questioning, insincerity, surprise or suspense.

***Downward* Inflection** This is when there is a change in pitch going from a higher to a lower note within the vowel. Most ofter, this change in pitch indicates confidence, finality, power and certainty.

***Level* Inflection -**This is when there is no change in pitch within the vowel.

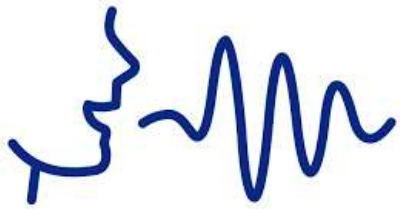
***Circumflex* Inflection -** This is when there is a rising and falling, *or* a falling and rising of pitch within the vowel. Most often, this change in pitch indicates confidence, finality, power, and certainty.

***Lowering* your pitch** at the end of a sentence makes it more powerful and gives the audience the impression you believe your own message. It also helps people to understand when one idea is finished.

Use *upward* inflections in the middle of a sentence to make the sentence more interesting and bring some attention to your point.

Use rising pitch at the start of a sentence or idea to show that there is more to follow.

Just for fun - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qI8RYfweJ8o - Voice tone example comedy sketch



Activity Three - **Read the text using pitch and intonation.**

Five secrets to inspiring speaches:

1. Have a point (but no more than a few).

How many times have you heard someone give a talk, and walked away asking yourself, "What was he or she even talking about?"

This is the cardinal sin of speeches. Even if your audience hasn't had to pay money to attend your talk, they're giving you something potentially more valuable: their time. Respect them by having at least one main point, but also remember that having too many messages creates the same problem as having none.

2. Think about structure.



It's a basic rule: A good story needs a beginning, a middle, and an end. So does a good speech. You'll find that an audience reacts best if you tell them early on in your speech what you plan to tell them, and give them mileposts along the way.

Thus, don't just dive into your remarks. Tell the audience up front how you plan to arrange your talk, and even perhaps what your main points are. *("Today, I'm going to talk with you about three key things...")*

If all else is equal, also try to spend roughly the same amount of time on each section, and use verbal cues to let your audience know where you are in the talk (*"That was the first point. The second point I want to share with you is...."*)

3. Connect, connect, connect.

Even though you're doing most of the talking, it's best to think of a speech as two-way conversation. Imagine that your relationship with the audience began before you arrived and will continue after you leave.

Add all of this up, and it means you need two things: confidence in your message, and a respectful understanding of your audience. Recognize that while you've ideally put hours into crafting your message, the folks in the folding chairs get a relatively short time to hear it. Don't talk down to them, but at the same time translate your words into language they're comfortable with.



4. Write poetry, not prose.

Written text works differently. Some things that look funny on the page work well when delivered orally, while other things that seem smart on paper fall flat when spoken aloud.

Therefore, model your text after poetry, lyrics, and of course, other great speeches. If nothing else, when you prepare your final draft, write it so that each new thought (and pause) begins on a new line. The final draft should look more like a poem than a page from a book.

5. Tell a story.

If you know anything about children, I can guarantee you one thing: Nobody has ever promised to go to bed if their parents agreed to give them a "bedtime lecture" first. We're simply wired to react better to stories than to recitations.

There are many great examples of this, but the one I always point clients to is the commencement address Steve Jobs gave in 2005 at Stanford. This was a masterful speech organized around into three stories: how taking calligraphy courses later impacted the MacBook (a story about connecting the dots), being fired from and returning to Apple (a story about love and loss), and what he learned from his first diagnosis with pancreatic cancer (a story about death).

6 **Use the tone of your voice:** Inflection, or Voice Modulation, is "change in the pitch or tone of the voice." Varying your tone throughout the speech – raising your voice slightly to indicate a question, lowering it to end a declarative sentence, speaking louder to indicate excitement or softer to express sadness – will help keep your audience awake and alert!

Source : https://www.inc.com/bill-murphy-jr/7-steps-to-an-inspiring-and-memorable-speech.html

https://nosweatpublicspeaking.com/verbal-communication-2-inflection/



Activity Four - Summarize the main points of the text above and again, use intonation and pitch to emphaise the important points of what you are explaining - seven pieces of important advice about public speaking.

Activity five: Linking words

To sound more convincing when speaking, we use linking words to create shorter more effective and informing sentences.

Complete the sentences below using the right linking words from the list.



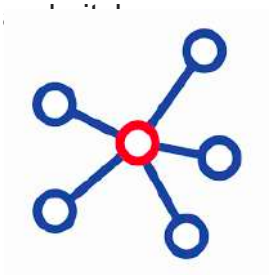
Now read the sentences again using intonation and pitch

However / Therefore / Furthermore / In addtion / Overall / On the one hand....On the other hand / Essentially / Clearly / All in all

1. _____ there is a problem with the data, as these results are not matching
2. I don't want to attend the meeting because the speaking is boring _____ it compusary to attend
3. The presenter is unavailable on the day we booked, _____ we need to reschedule the meeting
4. _____ he has never given a presentation before, it was very unorganised
5. _____ I find most presentations are too long, they should be more concise.
6. _____ meetings should be concise, but _____ they need to be informative
7. _____ people listen to those they find the most interesting, _____ sometimes the subject is not inspiring.
8. It was a highly motivating presentation, _____ it opened up another discussion topic
9. I enjoy listening to this subject, _____ today it wasn't presented in the right way
10. _____ to give a good presentation, you have to be both inspiring and inventive

Activity six: Linking words

Now answer the following question using the linking words and your intonation



1. What has changed in your life/company in the last five years?
2. How have you been challenged professionally /personally this year?
3. When did you last attend a meeting and what was it about?
4. Why do you think some people are inspiring when they speak?
5. What are the reasons why many people lose concentration in meetings?

Activity Seven: Inspiring speaches.

Here are some examples of inspiring speaches. (To watch at home).Which do you find inspiring and why?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ_RsmMEIGE

5 Greatest Motivational Speeches Ever (All Time)

Activity eight: Role Plays

With your partner or teacher, act out the following role plays

1. You have to give a presentation about your current project at work, and the audience is very tired. You have to use intonation and pitch to make the information sound very interesting to capture the attention of your audience.
2. You present a new idea for streamlining processes in your office, you know that many people will be resistant to change at this point, so you try to inspire them about your new idea.

