

**AMERICAN
ACCENT
COACHING**

with Audrey LeCrone

PITCH PATTERNS



SECTION 5 CLASS 1

**BRING THE BASIC PITCH PATTERN OF
STATEMENTS AND SOME QUESTIONS TO LIFE**

There are different ways to think about pitch. Use the visual aid that makes most sense for you! The following patterns demonstrate a general statement or question.

1 Who are you going with?

2 Who are you going with?

3 Who are you
going with?

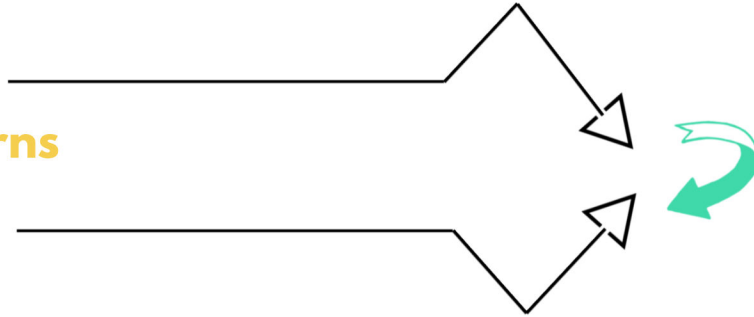
1 What are you going to do tomorrow?

2 What are you going to do tomorrow?

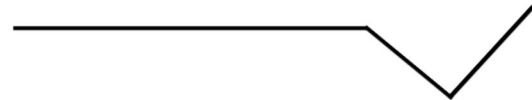
3 What are you going to
do tomorrow?



Two Patterns



This opposite pitch pattern is basically used for three reasons:



- 1) you're answering a yes or no question
- 2) you're using a two part sentence
- 3) you have an unfinished thought
(or are questioning something)

You can also think of this pitch pattern in whatever visual aid makes most sense to you.

1 **Would you mind *help -ing me?***

2 **Would you mind helping me?**

3 **Would you mind helping me?**

4 **Would you mind helping me?**



Try the two pitch patterns together!

Whenever I go out *si- ide,*

I get eaten up by mos- *qui toes.*

If I go *no-ow,*

I may miss the end of the *sa- ame.*

Since I drove *tod- day,*

You can drive to- *mo- row.*

Yester- day

I had a wonderful *da- ay.*



Now try out the two monologues, using both the pitch pattern that ends down and the one that ends up. See how the pitch affects the meaning.

MONOLOGUE 1

So, listen, I'm sorry that I didn't come see you down at the hospital. You know how those places creep me out, and the firm's been expanding. I've been helping Pop with the restaurant 'cause he needs to have a legitimate business. He needs a tax return. With all the money that he's making with his bookmaking, they're gonna come after him. And then it looks like I'm gonna make partner at the firm.

MONOLOGUE 2

"Seize the day. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may." Why does the writer use these lines? Because we are food for worms, lads. Because, believe it or not, each and every one of us in this room is one day going to stop breathing, turn cold, and die.

Now I would like you to step forward over here and peruse some of the faces from the past. You've walked past them many times. I don't think you've really looked at them.



They're not that different from you, are they? Same haircuts. Full of hormones, just like you. Invincible, just like you feel. The world is their oyster. They believe they're destined for great things, just like many of you. Their eyes are full of hope, just like you. Did they wait until it was too late to make from their lives even one iota of what they were capable? Because, you see gentlemen, these boys are now fertilizing daffodils. But if you listen real close, you can hear them whisper their legacy to you.

HOMEWORK

- 1** Find another text, whether a news article, a monologue, a conversation you had with your brother--whatever! Then play with the pitch patterns. See what applying different patterns does to the meanings.
- 2** Find a clip online from an interview, a short scene in a movie, or a friend with an American accent. See if you can hear their phrases and sentences ending up or down.