10c. intonation-intro

Now we've come to the topic of intonation. Intonation refers to the rise and fall of the pitch when you're speaking. It's related to stress. But it's not just stress. There are other factors at play. Intonation conveys things like statements. Yes, no questions, wh questions, certainty, anger, a lot of things are indicated by intonation. Different languages have different intonation patterns, which is why I've included this in the course. In addition, even different dialects of English have different intonation patterns, somewhat, but mostly, it's the same. In this course, we'll be focusing on the standard American type of intonation, which is international, understandable, and neutral sounding. So let's get started. There are two main major types of intonation patterns, there is the steady rise fall intonation pattern, and then there's the rising intonation pattern. They can be used for different purposes. And you can have different things conveyed when you do one thing one way, and sometimes you do another way to convey a different type of motion. The steady rise fall intonation pattern is a kind of a pattern where you start at a steady level of pitch. And then towards the end of the sentence, it goes up and then falls. Sometimes this is called the 231 pattern. When you do this, you start at the mid range level two pitch. And then towards the end, you go up to level three, and then drop to level one. This is commonly used in statements things like, I like the color blue. My name is Adrian, I teach accent reduction. I live in New York. As you can see, it starts the study mid level. And then when it goes to the sentence, focus in rises, and falls. My name is Adrian, this is also used for WH questions, things like who, what, where, why, how? So I would say, What is your name? Where do you come from? How do you do? Why are you here? It goes, Why are you here? These WH questions are fairly normal. They're just trying to get information. Now if you change it to the other major type of intonation pattern, the rising intonation pattern, which is also called the two three intonation pattern, it can convey doubt. If I said, What's your name? It's almost as if I've heard your name. And I can't believe your name is what you said it is. And I'm asking to verify and to clarify, if I actually heard you correctly. For example, if I asked you the question, what's your name? And you responded, Batman? And I because I'm confused. And I'm not sure if I heard you correctly, I might say, What's your name? As you can see, the first time I asked was a normal question, what's your name? And the second time, I was confused, and I was hesitant, and I was uncertain. And that's why I said, What's your name? This two three rising pattern is also used for yes, no questions like, Do you like it? Is it tasty? Can I have some? This may sound simple, but there's a lot of languages out there that actually don't do this. And you might speak one of those languages. One famous example is Russian. Where yes, no questions don't actually rise in intonation, they actually fall even faster. So a Russian speaker might say, Do you like it? As opposed to do like it? Not only is this a bit confusing, it can actually sound a bit angry because when English speakers use the falling intonation pattern for a yes, no question. It usually indicates anger or lack of patience. For example, if I asked the question, do you understand it's a normal neutral question? I just want to know if you understand or not, but if I said do you understand, this does sound a bit angry because this usually indicates lack of patience. It's a little more threatening. It does indicate lack of patience or anger. Okay, so that was a basic crash course in the intonation patterns that you most often find in English. So now try the exercises.