

The Melody of English: Research and Resources for Teaching the Pragmatic Functions of Intonation



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Platform:
Adobe Connect virtual
webinar room.



Summary

Intonation plays important but often overlooked roles in how speakers and listeners convey and interpret implied meaning. Studies suggest learners think intonation is merely 'decorative' (Gilbert 2014, p. 125) and learners who perceive neutral English intonation as exaggerated may be insensitive to the communicative and pragmatic functions of intonation to convey speaker intent.

If learners are not aware that intonation "has the power to reinforce, mitigate, or even undermine the words spoken" (Wichmann, 2005, p. 229), they may be missing out on the implied meaning their proficient English speaking peers have comprehended. In this webinar, the speakers suggest practical, engaging activities for seamlessly integrating intonation instruction into lessons to assist learners to be able to understand what is meant by what is said.

Marnie Reed is Associate Professor of Education and affiliated faculty in the Program in Applied Linguistics at Boston University where she directs the graduate TESOL program. Her current area of interest and research is in the role of metacognition in cross-linguistic awareness of the pragmatic functions of intonation. She is co-author of *Sound Concepts: An Integrated Pronunciation Course* (McGraw-Hill) and co-editor and chapter contributor to the forthcoming *Wiley Handbook of English Pronunciation*.

Tamara Jones holds a PhD in Education from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. She has taught in Russia, Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Belgium. She is currently an instructor at Howard Community College in Maryland. Tamara is the author of *Q: Skills for Success, Listening and Speaking 4*, *There must be 50 Ways to Teach them Vocabulary* and *There must be 50 Ways to Teach them Pronunciation*. As well, she is the editor and chapter contributor of the forthcoming book, *Integrating Pronunciation with other Skills*.

How to take part: Go to the virtual seminar room at <http://iatefl.adobeconnect.com/pronsigwebinars/>. Follow the on-screen prompts.

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