

## Graphic Symbol System for Intonation

We will use the symbols below to represent the pitch and stress changes in short messages. These will help you recognize the patterns to practice in the exercises. They will also help you troubleshoot unrehearsed words or sentences you come across in daily life.

The visual graphic system for words or short phrases represents: 1) stress, 2) pitch, and 3) contrast.

### Stress



This program defines three basic degrees of stress in words and gives them the following symbols.

primary



secondary



weak

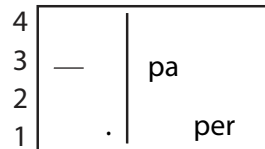


### Pitch

Step changes in pitch (where each syllable is on a separate tone) are indicated by placing the stress markers on distinct levels, either with or without the four-level pitch bar graph:



**Copy me!**



Glides in pitch are marked with a curve going up or down.

falling pitch



rising pitch

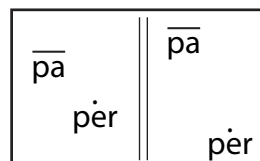


slightly rising pitch



### Contrast

*Contrast* in intonation refers to how clearly and distinctly the speaker's voice indicates different pitch levels and degrees of stress. You can mark contrast by lengthening or shortening the stress marker lines and by placing these stress markers closer together or farther apart to indicate the differences in pitch tones:



For longer messages, this symbol system becomes too rigid and busy. An easier, more realistic graphic system for these instances is described in [Chapter 4](#) and is available as one of three downloadable Graphic Reference Guides.