



Suprasegmentals:

Tone, Intonation, Pitch, Length, and Stress

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Visualization

Linguistics is easy.

Linguistics is fun.

Linguistics is logical.



Essential Question:

What should you know about the **suprasegmentals** (*tone, intonation, pitch, length, and stress*) of **English** in order to effectively serve ELs?




TONE

Use of fixed pitches to differentiate words

- Search the Internet to find out which languages are tonal. **Is English a tonal language?**

The following is an example from Chinese.

mā	level tone 	mother
má	rising tone 	hemp
mǎ	falling and rising tone 	horse
mà	falling tone 	scold

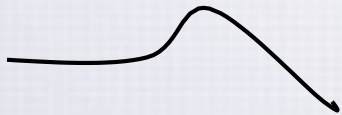
Native speakers of tonal languages can often be identified by the musical nature of their English pronunciation.

INTONATION

The use of pitch to convey meaning as in distinguishing between a statement and a question



You're cold. (*That's strange. I'm hot!*)



You're cold. (*Sorry I didn't notice. I'll turn on the heat right away!*)



Intonation is not necessarily the same across languages.

STRESS

A combination of pitch, loudness, and vowel length

présent (n.) The **present** was wrapped in red paper.

présént (v.) It is time to **present** the award.



Place the accent mark (for primary stress) above the correct syllable in each of the underlined words.

Who will represent the ELs?

Do ELs have representation at the meeting?

Those shoes aren't very feminine!

Are you questioning my femininity?



Takeaway!

Read the article by L. Grant on
[Suprasegmentals: An Overview.](#)

Design a short presentation that you could present to teachers at your school to demonstrate how knowledge of **suprasegmentals** will enhance their effectiveness in the classroom with English learners (ELs).

Be sure to include examples of tone, intonation, pitch, length, and stress.

CONGRATULATIONS !

You've earned yourself a
trip to the beach.



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