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# ENGLISH PHONETICS

# 3

## Lesson 31 Chunking & Intonation



**Read the sentence.**

**The cat chased the mouse.**

**Chunking** a sentence refers to breaking or dividing a sentence into different **thought groups**. This will help your listener better understand what you are saying.



The / cat / chased / the / mouse.

The cat / chased the mouse.

What makes them different?

## Different Thought Groups

A **thought group** is a group of words with one idea. Pauses are made between them for emphasis. They are usually divided based on grammar.

### noun phrase

The blue bird

The children

### verb phrase

sang a tune

played happily

### prepositional phrase

in the morning

under the sun

**My mother**

noun phrase

**baked a cake**

verb phrase

**for my birthday**

prepositional phrase



**My mother baked a cake  
for my birthday.**

**The team**

noun phrase

**scored a goal**

verb phrase

**in the last minute**

prepositional phrase



**The team scored a goal  
in the last minute.**

**Listen to the teacher.**



## **Remember!**

**Chunking** helps listeners understand the structure and meaning of a sentence by grouping related words. It allows easier processing of information and helps avoid confusion.

**Arrange the jumbled phrases to form a correct sentence.**

**1**

in the park

chased the ball

The dog

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**2**

is climbing

The cat

up the tree

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**Arrange the jumbled phrases to form a correct sentence.**

**3**

in the library

was studying

My best friend

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**4**

The students

to the beach

are planning to go

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**Put a slash (/) to chunk each sentence correctly.**

- 1 The puppy chased its tail around the garden.
- 2 My little sister ate her breakfast with a spoon.
- 3 The tall tree swayed in the wind near the river.
- 4 Her painting won first prize in the competition.
- 5 The old woman walked slowly with her cane.

Listen to the sentences.

How are you?

I'm fine, thanks.

**Intonation** refers to the way our voice **rises** and **falls** when we say a sentence.

How are you?

The voice **rises** towards the end of the sentence, indicating a **question**.

I'm fine, thanks.

The voice **falls** towards the end of the sentence, indicating a **statement**.

## Rising Intonation

It refers to the way our voice **goes up** (↗) at the end of a sentence. It is used in **Yes or No questions**.

## Falling Intonation

It refers to the way our voice **goes down** (↘) at the end of a sentence. It is used in **Wh-questions** and **statements**.

## Examples of **Rising** Intonation

Did you enjoy the party? ↗

Would you like a cup of tea? ↗

Can you pass me the salt, please? ↗

Are you going to the concert with us? ↗

Do you have any plans for the weekend? ↗

## Examples of **Falling** Intonation

Which book did you choose? ↘

She's going on vacation next week. ↘

Where is the nearest grocery store? ↘

I'm really tired after a long day at work. ↘

I went to the store to buy some groceries. ↘

Read, and identify if the sentence has a **rising** or a **falling** intonation.

- 1 The book is on the table.
- 2 Can I borrow your pen?
- 3 What time is the meeting?
- 4 The baseball game was fun.
- 5 Did you finish your homework?





# SHORT PARAGRAPH

Timmy had a pet turtle named Tommy. Tommy's shell had a crack. He wondered, "How can I help Tommy?" So, he went to the vet and asked, "Will Tommy be okay?" The vet said, "He will be fine soon." Timmy was happy knowing that Tommy would get better soon.



**WELL DONE!**

**Pronunciation Rule:  
Chunking & Intonation**