

English Conversation Club

Meets
9:30-11am
on Tuesdays
here!

sbc

The illustration shows four stylized human figures in a row. Above them are three speech bubbles: a green one on the left containing the word 'English', a large red one in the center containing 'Conversation', and an orange one on the right containing 'Club'. A small yellow thought bubble with a red question mark is positioned above the third figure. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo with a green figure and the letters 'sbc'.

Question Emphasis & Intonation

Emphasis

Say the sentence:

“What do you want to eat tonight”?

Now listen:

“WHAT d’you WANT’a EAT t’NIGHT”?

Rhythm to emphasize
key words

Change Emphasis to Change Meaning

“WHAT d’you want to eat tonight”?

=what is your choice?

“What DO you want to eat tonight”?

=You’ve refused everything I offered, is there anything you really want?

“What do YOU want to eat tonight”?

=Every one else has made their choice, what’s yours?

Change Emphasis to Change Meaning

“What d’you **WANT** to eat tonight”?

=if you could choose anything, what would it be?

“What d’you want to **EAT** tonight”?

=several things are planned for tonight, but my question is about your choice of food

“What d’you want to eat **TONIGHT**”?

=you’ve already chosen most things on the menu on your last visits to this restaurant, so what will you choose this time?

Practice Time!

Now try these sentences (rhythm concentrating on the **bold** words and the emphasis concentrated on the underlined word):

- *I’m **going** to see a film tomorrow*
- *I’ve never been to **Grimsby***
- ***Where** did I leave my keys?*

Now explain the situation where you might say each of these.

Practice Time!

Try the following sentences in several ways:

- *Can I get to Beeston along this path?*
[Can / I / Beeston / this path]
- *Why is your dog barking?*
[Why / your / dog / barking]
- *Fish and chips are the best English food*
[Fish and chips / English / food]

Say each sentence
3 or 4 times but
changing the
emphasis each time
to the next
coloured word

What does each mean?

Intonation 'rules'

- **Rise** at the end of
 - 'closed' question (those with yes/no answers)
- **Fall** at the end of
 - 'open' questions (those with other answers)
 - 'closed' questions when you think you may know the answer but aren't sure
- **Rise then fall** for either/or questions

Intonation - Things to note!

- The intonation 'end' of a question, might not be at the end!!
- In tag questions
 - The statement **rises**.
 - The tag **falls**.

Try intonations for these questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| • <i>Do you like Stapleford?</i> | • <i>For shopping, do you prefer Derby or Nottingham?</i> |
| • <i>When did you arrive</i> | • <i>When did you arrive in the UK?</i> |
| • <i>Is it your birthday today?</i> | • <i>How tall are you?</i> |
| • <i>Is that a frog?</i> | • <i>That can't be true. How old are you?</i> |
| • <i>I can't believe it. Is that a frog?</i> | • <i>It always rains in Manchester, doesn't it?</i> |
| • <i>Are you really going to eat a frog?</i> | |