

Voice Inflection

What Is Voice Inflection?



Voice inflection means changing your voice. You can change your voice in one of three ways. Listen to these three examples.



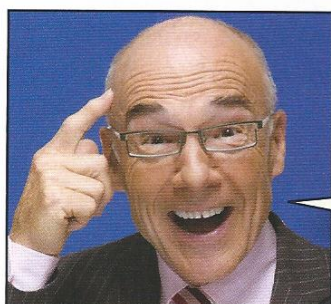
1. Stressing a word or phrase

I have a **LOT** of experience.



2. Stretching a word or phrase

No . . . I have a **LOOOO**t of experience.



3. Pausing before a word or phrase

No . . . I have a (. . . **LOT**) of experience.

Why Is Voice Inflection Important?

Using inflection is a lot like using gestures. Without gestures your physical message is flat—there is no variation, no action, no energy. Similarly, without inflection your verbal message is flat—there is no variation, no color, no emphasis. Inflection emphasizes key words to add interest and help the listener understand your speech—just as gestures do.



Listen to the two radio advertisements. Which announcer uses voice inflection?

☐ Advertisement 1

☐ Advertisement 2

How to Use Voice Inflection

- In the previous exercise you listened to the CD and were able to identify three types of voice inflection. Now it is time for you to decide for yourself which words to emphasize by stressing, stretching, or pausing.
- Which are the best words to inflect?
- Usually the inflected words are from one of the following five word groups: numbers, action words, descriptive words, comparison words, and negative words.



Step 1 Listen to the CD and underline the inflected word or words for each of the five word groups.

Numbers

"This is a \$19,999 car."



1.



Stressing

"The universe is only 6,000 years old?"



2.



Stretching

"The universe is billions and billions of years old."



3.



Pausing

Action words

"We have cut prices in half."



4.



Stressing

"We can decrease pollution."



5.



Stretching

"The price of gas has shot up again."



6.



Pausing

Descriptive words (adjectives and adverbs)

"Do you still drive a big car?"



7.



Stressing

"Attitudes are slowly changing."



8.



Stretching

"You can quickly increase your income."



9.



Pausing

Comparison words

"We build more efficient cars than before."



10.

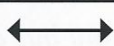


Stressing

"We have the most experienced teachers."



11.



Stretching

"Nobody gives better service than us."



12.



Pausing

Negative words

"And remember, there's no down payment."



13.



Stressing

"Sorry, tax is not included."



14.



Stretching

"You should never drink and drive."



15.



Pausing



Step 2 Now, listen again and repeat after each sentence. Emphasize the inflected words that you underlined.