

Exercises

- 3.1 Listen to each question and decide whether the speaker is *finding out* (with a falling tone) or *making sure* (with a rising tone). Underline your answer.

C73

EXAMPLE Who are they playing next week?	<u>finding out</u> <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Were the police involved?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
2 Are you feeling okay now?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
3 Don't we turn left here?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
4 Why didn't you phone me earlier?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
5 Have you discussed it with your parents yet?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
6 How do you get the top off?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
7 Did I see you in town on Saturday?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>
8 What happened after that?	finding out <input type="checkbox"/> / making sure <input type="checkbox"/>

Now check your answers in the Key. Then say the questions aloud with the same intonation.

- 3.2 Joe and Olivia are going on holiday in the morning, but Joe is excited and can't sleep. Do you think Joe's questions are likely to have a rising tone (put in the box) or a falling tone ()?

J: Are you awake? O: Mmm.
 J: I wonder what time it is? O: Er, four o'clock.
 J: When did you book the taxi for? O: Eight.
 J: Which terminal does the plane leave from? O: Don't know.
 J: You don't know? O: No.
 J: Doesn't Philip work at the airport? O: No, Adam.
 J: Are you sure? O: Yes.
 J: What time is it again? O: Four.
 J: Would you mind if I put the radio on? O: No.
 J: When's the taxi coming? O: Zzzzz.

C74

Now listen and check your predictions. Then listen again, taking Joe's part. Press 'pause' before each of Joe's questions and read them aloud. Then press 'play' again and compare your pronunciation with what follows.

- 3.3 Listen and decide whether each question is asked mainly for social reasons (with a fall-rising tone) or to make sure (with a rising tone). Underline or .

C75

EXAMPLE Is it okay to park here?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Can I get you another drink?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
2 Have you been here before?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
3 Wasn't Don at the meal?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
4 Can you see it more clearly now?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
5 Would you like me to fetch it for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>

Now check your answers in the Key. Then say the questions aloud with the same intonation.

Follow up: If you have internet access, go to the BBC Radio website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio>) or another English language radio website (see Unit 4 for suggestions). Find a recording of an episode of a 'soap opera', that is, a series about the lives of a particular group of characters. Listen and write down the first ten *yes-no* and *wh-* questions that are spoken. Is the last tone in each a rise, a fall, or a fall-rise? Does the information in this unit help you to understand each choice?

44

Wasn't it terrible? Are you crazy? Questions (2)

A C76 Questions are often used to make a comment or exclamation rather than to find out or check information. An answer is not necessarily expected.

Negative *yes-no* questions are commonly used to show surprise, pleasure, etc., particularly when we encourage others to agree with us. These usually have a falling tone:

WASn't it TERrible? DIDn't she sound riDICulous?
HAVen't I been STUpid? AREn'T they BEAUtiful?

In informal English we can also use positive *yes-no* questions, particularly to express criticism. These often have a rising tone:

Are you CRAzy? Have you gone MAD?

Wh- questions are also used to make a comment, particularly ones with modal verbs. These usually have a falling tone:

HOW was I supposed to know? WHAT'S it to do with YOU?

B C77 Sometimes we ask a question and suggest a possible answer ourselves before the hearer replies. As the purpose of these possible answers is to make sure that what we think we know is correct, they usually have a fall-rising tone (see Unit 43):

Where are you off to? the SUPERmarket?
How are you getting there? with NICola?
What are you going to wear? NOT that old JUMper again?



C C78 We can use questions to give instructions or make suggestions. These usually have a falling tone, and often (but not always) include modal verbs:

will you PLEASE leave it aLONE?
WOULD you turn the LIGHT off?
WHY don't you go by TRAIN?
COULD we have the BILL, please?
COULDn't you just reFUSE?
HOW about putting it over THERE?

Exercises

- 44.1 Do you think the questions in B's responses are more likely to have a rising tone (put ↗ in the box) or a falling tone (↘)?

EXAMPLE A: I thought Madrid played brilliantly. B: Weren't they amazing?

- 1 A: I've just got a job in Alaska. B: Are you serious?
- 2 A: I don't think any of these jackets will fit. B: How about this one?
- 3 A: You didn't tell your parents what you're going to do, did you? B: Certainly not. Do you think I'm stupid?
- 4 A: Great weather we're having. B: Isn't it fantastic?
- 5 A: So did you lend Barry your motorbike? B: Barry! Are you out of your mind?
- 6 A: Where do you want me to go? B: Can you stand over there?
- 7 A: What do you think of my new skirt? B: You can't go out dressed like that. Have you no shame?
- 8 A: Roz's exam results were good, weren't they? B: Didn't she do well?
- 9 A: The match is on TV tonight. B: Who cares?
- 10 A: David looks awful. B: Do you mind? That's my brother you're talking about.

C79 Now listen and check your answers. Then listen again. Press 'pause' before each B part and read it aloud. Then press 'play' again and compare your pronunciation with what follows.

- 44.2 Choose an answer from the box to complete each conversation.

All of them ~~A cake~~ Any of it This evening Dr Ireland
Because your friends told you to With her parents Nothing serious

EXAMPLE A: What are you making? *A cake*?
B: Yes, it's for Linda's birthday.

- 1 A: When are they supposed to be back??
B: I think so.
- 2 A: Where's she living now??
B: Yes, since last month.
- 3 A: How many of your cousins have you invited??
B: Just a few.
- 4 A: Why did you do such a silly thing??
B: I'm really sorry.
- 5 A: How much of the assignment have you written so far??
B: A couple of pages.
- 6 A: What's wrong with your mother??
B: No, she'll be fine soon.
- 7 A: Which doctor did you want to see??
B: Yes, please, if he's free.

C80 Now listen and check your answers. Then listen again. Press 'pause' before each A part and read it aloud. Use a falling tone in the first question and a fall-rising tone in the possible answer. Then press 'play' again and compare your pronunciation with what follows.

EXAMPLE What are you making ? A cake ?

Follow up: Here are some more common short questions usually said with a falling tone. Do you know what they mean? *What for? How come? Why not? What's up? So what?*