

## Tone

An identifiable movement or level of **PITCH** that is used in a linguistically contrastive way.

### Examples for English

In English, tone forms the central part of **INTONATION**, and the difference between, for example, a rising and a falling tone on a particular word may cause a different interpretation of the sentence in which it occurs, e.g.:

- ▶ it was <sup>ˈ</sup>cold  
(meaning 'it was cold')
- ▶ it was <sup>ˌ</sup>cold  
(meaning 'was it cold?')

There are often recognised as being at least five tones in English: a fall, a rise, a fall-rise, a rise-fall and a level tone.

Meanings are frequently ascribed to each tone; the scope of this panel does not allow us to discuss this further.

In intonation, tone may be spread over many syllables. E.g., in:

- ▶ his <sup>ˈ</sup>car could have broken down  
(in which the pitch movement falls on *car* and rises on *down*)

### In other languages

In some languages (known as 'tone languages') the linguistic function of tone is to change the meaning of a word: in Mandarin Chinese, for example, [ma] said on a high pitch means *mother* while [ma] said on a low rising tone means *hemp*. It is usual to identify tones as being a property of individual syllables.

**toggery** 'tɒg.ər.i @ 'tɑː.gə-, 'tɔː-  
**togglye** 'tɒg.əl @ 'tɑː.gəl, 'tɔː- -es -z  
-ing -ɪŋ -ed -d  
**Togo** 'təʊ.gəʊ @ 'təʊ.gəʊ -land -lənd  
**Togolese** 'təʊ.gəʊ'liːz @ 'təʊ.gəʊ'liː-,  
-'liːs *stress shift*: 'Togolese 'people  
**Toibin** 'təʊ.biːn @ 'tɔː.biːn  
**toil** 'tɔːl -s -z -ing -ɪŋ -ed -d -er/s -ə'/z  
@ -ə'/z  
**toile** 'tɔːl, 'tɔːl @ 'tɔːl -s -z  
**toilet** 'tɔːl.ət -s -s 'toilet, 'bɑːg; 'toilet  
, 'peɪpə; 'toilet, 'rɒl; 'toilet  
, 'traɪnɪŋ; 'toilet, 'wɔːtə  
**toiletly** 'tɔːl.i.tri, -lə- -ies -iz  
**toilette** 'tɔːl.ət -s -s  
**toilsome** 'tɔːl.səm -li -li -ness -nəs,  
-nis  
**toilworn** 'tɔːl.wɔːn @ -wɔːrn  
**to-ing and fro-ing**  
, 'tuː.ɪŋ.ənd'frəʊ.ɪŋ @ -'frəʊ- **to-ings**  
**and fro-ings**, 'tuː.ɪŋz.ənd'frəʊ.ɪŋz  
@ -'frəʊ-  
**tokay (T)** 'təʊ'keɪ, -'kaɪ, '-; 'tɒk'aɪ,  
-'eɪ @ 'təʊ'keɪ  
**Tokelau** 'təʊ.kə.ləʊ, 'tɒk.ə-  
@ 'təʊ.kə-  
**token** 'təʊ.kən @ 'təʊ- -s -z -ism  
-i.zəm  
**Tokharian** 'tɒk'əʊ.ri.ən, 'təʊ'keə-,  
-'kaː- @ 'təʊ'keɪ.i-, -'kæɪ-  
**Toklas** 'tɒk.ləs, 'təʊk-, -ləs  
@ 'təʊk.ləs  
**Tokley** 'təʊ.kli @ 'təʊ-  
**Tokyo** 'təʊ.ki.əʊ @ 'təʊ.ki.əʊ  
**Toland** 'təʊ.lənd @ 'təʊ-  
**told** (*from tell*) 'təʊld @ 'təʊld  
**toledo blade**: 'təʊ.liː.dəʊ, 'tɒl'iː-  
@ 'təʊ.liː.dəʊ -s -z  
**Toledo in Spain**: 'tɒl'eɪ.dəʊ, 'təʊ'leɪ-,  
-'liː- @ 'təʊ'liː.dəʊ, -'leɪ- *in US*:  
'təʊ'liː.dəʊ @ -dəʊ  
**tolerability** 'tɒl.ər.ə'bil.ə.ti, -i.ti  
@ 'tɑː.lə.ə'bil.ə.ti  
**tolerable** 'tɒl.ər.ə.blə @ 'tɑː.lə-

-li -li -leness -əl.nəs, -nis  
**tolerance** 'tɒl.ər.'nəs @ 'tɑː.lə-  
**tolerant** 'tɒl.ər.'nt @ 'tɑː.lə- -li -li  
**tolerjate** 'tɒl.'rɪ.ət @ 'tɑː.lə.rɪ.ət  
-ates -eɪts -ating -eɪ.tɪŋ @ -eɪ.tɪŋ  
-ated -eɪ.tɪd @ -eɪ.tɪd  
**toleration** 'tɒl.ər'eɪ.'fən @ 'tɑː.lə'reɪ-  
**Tolkien** 'tɒl.kiːn, '- @ 'təʊl.kiːn,  
'tɑːl-  
**toll** 'təʊl @ 'təʊl -s -z -ing -ɪŋ -ed -d -er/s  
-ə'/z @ -ə'/z 'toll, 'brɪdʒ; 'toll, 'kɔːl  
**toll|booth** 'tɒl.buːθ, 'təʊl-, -buːθ  
@ 'təʊl- -booths -buːθs, -buːθz  
**Tollemache** 'tɒl.mæʃ, -mə; 'f @ 'tɑːl-  
**Tollesbury** 'təʊlz.b'ri @ 'təʊlz.ber-,  
-bə-  
**Tolleshunt** 'təʊlz.hʌnt @ 'təʊlz-  
**Tolley** 'tɒl.i @ 'tɑː.li  
**toll-free** 'təʊl'friː, 'təʊl- *stress shift*:  
, 'tɒl-free 'kɔːl  
**tollgate** 'təʊl.ɡeɪt @ 'təʊl- -s -s  
**tollhouse** 'təʊl.haʊs @ 'təʊl- -ses  
-zɪz  
**Tolpuddle** 'tɒl.pʌd.əl *locally also*:  
, -pɪd- @ 'tɑːl-  
**Tolstoy** 'tɒl.stɔɪ @ 'tɑːl-, 'təʊl-  
**Toltec** 'tɒl.tek @ 'tɑːl-, 'təʊl- -s -s  
**tolu (T)** 'tɒl'uː, 'təʊ'l'uː, -'ljuː @ 'təʊ'l'uː  
**toluene** 'tɒl.juː.ɪn @ 'tɑːl-  
**Tolworth** 'tɒl.wɜːθ, -wɜːθ  
@ 'tɑːl.wɜːθ, -wɜːθ  
**tom (T)** 'tɒm @ 'tɑːm -s -z, 'Tom  
, 'Collins; 'Tom, 'Dick and 'Harry;  
, 'Tom and 'Jerry; 'Tom 'Thumb  
**tomahawk** 'tɒm.ə.hɔːk  
@ 'tɑː.mə.hɔːk, -hɔːk -s -s -ing -ɪŋ  
-ed -t  
**Tomalin** 'tɒm.əl.ɪn @ 'tɑː.məl-  
**toman** 'təʊ'mɑːn @ 'təʊ-, 'tə- -s -z  
**tomato** 'tɒm.ə'təʊ @ -'meɪ.təʊ -es -z  
**tomb** 'tʊm -s -z  
**tombola** 'tɒm'bəʊ.lə @ 'tɑːm'bəʊ-,  
'tɑːm.b'əʊ -s -z  
**tomboy** 'tɒm.bɔɪ @ 'tɑːm- -s -z

**tombstone (T)** 'tʊm.stəʊn @ -stəʊn  
-s -z  
**tomcat** 'tɒm.kæt @ 'tɑːm- -s -s  
**tome** 'təʊm @ 'təʊm -s -z  
**Tomelty** 'tɒm.əl.ti @ -tj  
**tomfool** 'tɒm'fuːl @ 'tɑːm- -s -z  
-ery -'rɪ @ -'ɜː.i  
**Tomintoul** 'tɒm.ɪn'təʊl, -ən'-  
@ 'tɑːm-  
**Tomkins** 'tɒm.p.kɪnz @ 'tɑːmp-  
**Tomlinson** 'tɒm.lɪn.sən @ 'tɑːm-  
**tommy, tommie (T)** 'tɒm.i  
@ 'tɑː.mli -ies -iz 'tommy, 'ɡʌn  
**tommy-gun** 'tɒm.i.ɡʌn @ 'tɑː.mi-  
-s -z  
**tommyrot** 'tɒm.i.rɒt, '-'-  
@ 'tɑː.mi.rɔːt  
**tomogram** 'təʊ.mə.ɡræm, 'tɒm.ə-  
@ 'təʊ.mə- -s -z  
**tomography** 'təʊ'mɒɡ.rə.fi  
@ 'təʊ'mɑː.ɡrə-, 'tə'-  
**tomorrow** 'tə'mɒr.əʊ, 'tʊ-  
@ -'mɑː.r.əʊ -s -z **to, morrow**  
**after'noon**; **to, morrow** 'evening;  
**to, morrow** 'morning; **to, morrow**  
'night  
**Tompion** 'tɒm.pi.ən @ 'tɑːm-  
**Tompkins** 'tɒm.p.kɪnz @ 'tɑːmp-  
**Tomsk** 'tɒmpsk @ 'tɑːmpsk  
**tomtit** 'tɒm.tɪt, '-'- @ 'tɑːm'tɪt, '--  
-s -s  
**tom-tom** 'tɒm.tɒm @ 'tɑːm.tɑːm  
-s -z  
**ton** *weight*: tʌn -s -z  
**ton** *fashion*: tɔːn @ 'təʊn  
**tonal** 'təʊ.nəl @ 'təʊ-  
**tonality** 'təʊ'næl.ə.ti, -i.ti  
@ 'təʊ'næl.ə.ti, tə- -ies -iz  
**Tonbridge** 'tʌn.brɪdʒ, 'tɑːm- @ 'tʌn-  
**tonje** 'təʊn @ 'təʊn -es -z -ing -ɪŋ -ed -d  
**tone-deaf** 'təʊn'def @ 'təʊn-, '-'-  
-ness -nəs, -nis *stress shift*, *British*  
*only*: 'təʊn-deaf 'pɜːsn  
**toneless** 'təʊn.ləs, -lɪs @ 'təʊn- -li -li