
UNIT 24

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24.0 OBJECTIVES

In this last unit of the course we shall ask you to study a number of dialogues relating to different communicative functions—asking for directions, giving directions, invitations, accepting invitations, and declining invitations.

In the section on pronunciation we shall introduce you to some of the basic intonation patterns in English.

After completing the unit you should be able to take part in conversations relating to certain communicative functions, and English with correct intonation patterns.

Cassette Recording

A cassette recording accompanies this unit and is available on payment.

24.1 CONVERSATION

24.1.1 Asking for Directions ; Giving Directions

Exercise 1

Read the following dialogue and then listen to it on the cassette. Make a

note of the way in which people ask for directions and give directions in English. After you have listened to the dialogue, read it aloud yourself.

Dialogue—1

Stranger : Excuse me. Could you tell me the way to the Registrar's office ?

Lata : Well, walk down this road and take the first turning on the right. Walk on, until you see the State Bank of India on the right. Then take the second turning on the left. The Registrar's office is only about 50 metres away.

Stranger : Is it a long way from here ?

Lata : Not very far, but you can go by bus if you like.

Stranger : D'you know which bus will go that way ?

Lata : Yes, Number 5 will take you up to the Bank.

Stranger : Oh, there's bus coming. It's number five.

Lata : So it is. You're lucky.

Stranger : Thank you very much.

Lata : You're welcome.

Exercise 2

Now here's another dialogue for you to read and listen to. After you have listened to the dialogue read it aloud yourself.

Dialogue—2

A : Excuse me. I'm looking for the Government Hospital.

B : The Government Hospital? I don't know of any Government Hospital here.

A : I was told it was quite close to the public gardens.

B : Oh, you mean the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

A : That's right.

B : That's one kilometre away from here.

A : How can I get there ?

B : Take that road on your right and then take the second turning left. Walk straight on till you reach the crossroads. On your right you'll see a high building. That's the hospital.

A : Is it on a bus route ?

B : Oh, yes. You can take a number 6, or a number 20, or 31. These will take you all the way to the hospital.

A : Thank you very much indeed.

B : My pleasure.

24.1.2 Invitations ; Accepting Invitations

Exercise 3

Read the following telephone conversation and then listen to it on the cassette. In this dialogue, Prakash invites Suchi to go out for a movie. He also asks her to join him for coffee. Suchi is delighted. She accepts the invitation. Make a note of the expressions.

Prakash uses to invite Suchi. Notice also the expressions Suchi uses to accept it. After you have listened to the dialogue, read it aloud yourself.

Dialogue—3

Suchi : Hello !

Prakash : Hi, Suchi, It's me, Prakash.

Suchi : Oh, hello, Prakash ! How are you ?

Prakash : Oh, not bad. I say, are you doing anything on Saturday evening ?

Suchi : No, nothing special. Why ?

Prakash : Well, d'you feel like seeing that new movie, "Mirch Masala"?

Suchi : Oh, that's wonderful idea.

Prakash : Great! So that's settled. And are you free *this* evening ?

What about having coffee together?

Suchi : Sure, why not ?

Where d'you want us to meet ?

Prakash : Shall I pick you up in half an hour at your house ?

Suchi : Fine. Well, see you soon.

Prakash : Right ; so long.

Suchi : Bye.

Notice that people use expressions like

—*D'you feel like..... ? What about..... ?*, etc.in order to invite someone to do something or go somewhere.

In order to accept the invitation in expressions used are :

Oh, that's wonderful idea ; Sure, why not ? ; Fine ; and so on.

24.1.3 Declining Invitations

Exercise 4

Now read another telephone conversation and listen to it on the cassette. Ravi invites his friend Gopal to a picnic. Gopal is busy and cannot go. He declines the invitation politely. Make a note of the expressions that are used for declining invitations. After you have listened to the dialogue, read it aloud yourself.

Dialogue—4

Gopal : Hello !

Ravi : Hi, Gopal. It's me. Ravi.

Gopal : Oh, hi, Ravi. How are you ?

Ravi : I'm fine. I say, are you free on Sunday ?

Gopal : Well, I'm expecting a friend. Why ?

Ravi : I wanted to invite you to a picnic. The family is going to spend the day out. I thought you might like to join us.

Gopal : Oh, I'd have loved to, but I can't go.

Ravi : Hard luck. Would you like to join us a little later perhaps ?

Gopal : I'm afraid I can't.

Ravi : Or may be you could meet us after your friend comes. You can bring him along too. We're going to the lake. Can you come ?

Gopal : I'm really sorry, but I don't think I can.

Ravi : That's pity. Another time then ?

Gopal : Yes. Thank you for asking me.

Notice that some other ways of inviting people are.....

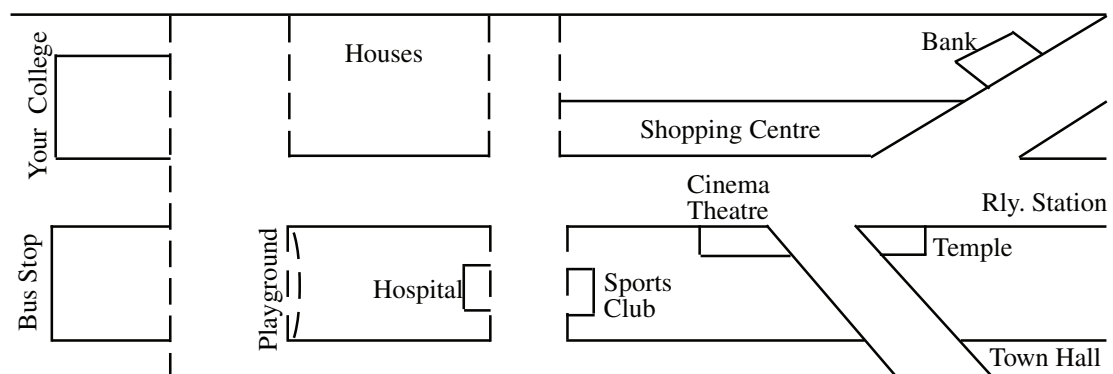
I want to invite you ; Would you like to join us ? Can you come ?

In order to decline an invitation the expressions used are.....

I'd have loved to, but I can't ; I'm afraid I can't ; I'm really sorry, but I don't think I can; and so on.

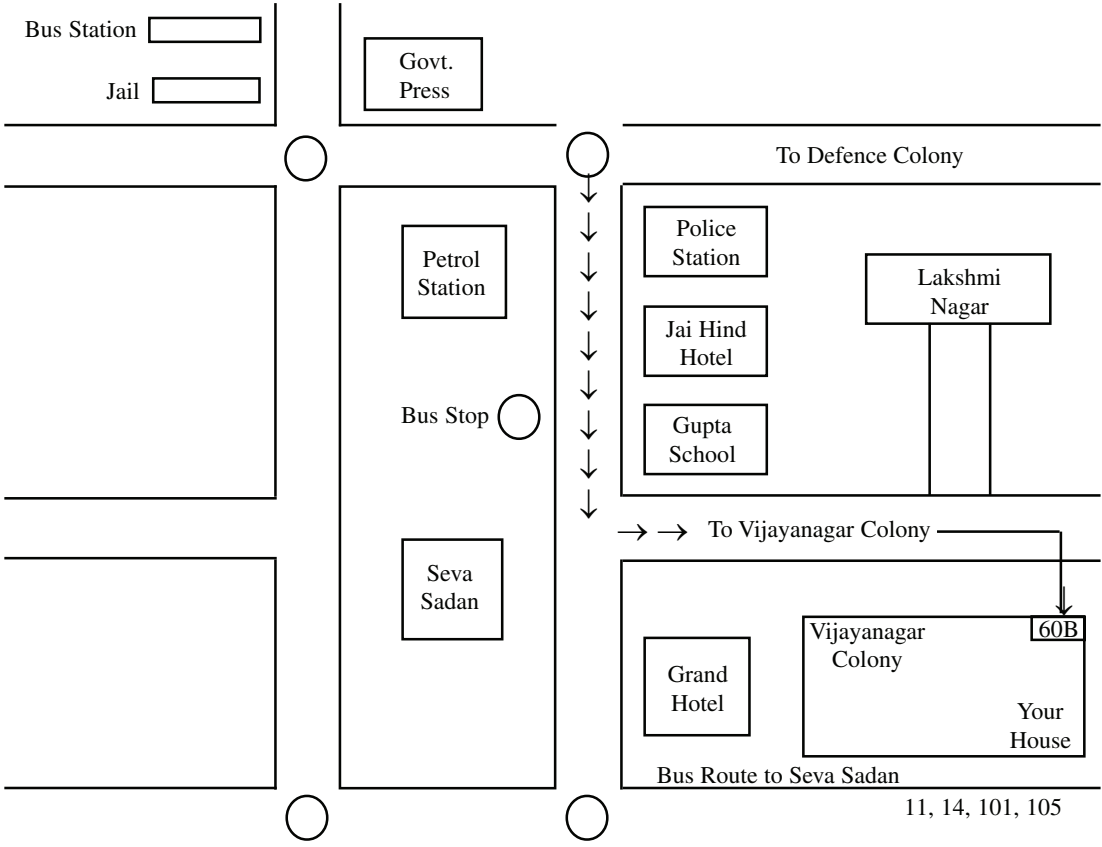
Exercise 5

Write a short dialogue in which you tell a stranger the way from your college to the railway station or to the town hall. Here is a map to help you give directions.



Exercise 6

You have moved to a new house. Your friend would like to visit you. Look at the map given below and with the help of the map tell your friend the way to your new house from the bus station near his houses.



Exercise 7

Write a dialogue in which you invite your friend to go with you to the local funfair. He/she is busy on that day and declines the invitation. You then suggest an alternative (like going to a movie, or a concert, etc.) on some other day and he/she accepts it.

24.2 PRONUCIATION

Intonation

We shall introduce you to intonation patterns in English.

24.2.1 Tone Groups

A longer sentence is usually divided into what may be called breath groups or sense groups. We also call them tone groups.

Example :

When I went to see him/he was still in bed.

(The tone group division is shown by the oblique bar/).

Exercise 8

Listen to the following sentences on the cassette and divide them into tone groups :

1. By the time we got home, it was already dark.
2. I'll send him an answer, as soon as I can.
3. If you need anything else, just ask me.
4. By refusing to answer you'll only make matters worse.
5. Going through your papers. I was surprised to find that you'd studied journalism.

24.2.2 The Nucleus

The last important word in each group has what is called the nucleus. On the stressed syllable of this word there is a movement of the pitch of the speaker's voice from high to low or low to high.

24.2.3 Tones

The change in pitch from high to low is known as the falling tone, and the change in pitch from low to high is known as the rising tone.

The Falling Tone

We shall show the falling tone with a slanting mark pointing downward, placed before the nucleus.

The falling tone is generally used in

- (a) statements ; for example
 1. I haven't the `time
 2. I'm 'going `home.
 3. There's no re`ply.
- (b) questions beginning with a question-word such as *what, how, when, etc.* ; for example
 1. 'What's the `time ?
 2. 'Where's the `gone ?
 3. 'When will they `come?
 4. 'Why are they `late?
 5. 'How many have you `got?
 6. 'How much d'you 'need?
- (c) commands; for example.

1. 'Close the `door.
 2. 'Bring it back at `once.
- (d) exclamations; for example,
1. What an 'excellent i`dea!
 2. How extra'ordinary!
- (e) question tags, when agreement is expected; for example,
1. It's 'rather `hot today, / `isn't it?
 2. This is a 'difficult 'question, / `isn't it?

Exercise 9

Now look at the following words and sentences, which have a falling tone on the nucleus, and listen to them on the cassette. Then say each word and sentence with a falling tone. Make sure that the pitch of your voice moves from a higher level to a lower level on the nucleus.

1. to`morrow
They're 'coming to`morrow.
2. `light
'Switch on the `light.
3. 'time
'Don't waste my `time.
4. 'papers
'Where are the `papers?
5. `finish
'When d'you ex'pect to `finish it?
6. `coffee
Let's 'go and have some `coffee.

Exercise 10

Now here are some short dialogues for you to practise. Listen to them on the cassette and then read them aloud yourself.

1. A : 'Why don't you 'buy a `car?
B : I 'haven't got the `money.
2. A : 'Have some 'coffee.
B : I'd 'rather have some `juice.
3. A : 'Open that `door.
B : But it's `jammed.
A : Well, 'get the `carpenter to, open it.

(A stressed syllable after the nucleus is marked at the bottom.)

4. A : 'What's the `matter with you?
B : I've had a 'sleepless `night.
5. A : 'Who is that `man?

- B : He's a rep`orter.
 A : I 'don't like his `looks.
 B : I'll 'send him a `way, them.
 6. A : I'd like to have a 'word with you.
 B : Just 'leave me a `lone.
 A : 'Give me a 'chance to ex`plain hings.
 B : I'm not `interested. 'Go a `way.

Exercise 11

Listen to the following dialogues recorded on the cassette and mark strees and intonation. After you have checked your answers, read each dialogue aloud.

1. A : I'm leaving tonight
 B : When will you return?
2. A : It's rather dark in here.
 B : Switch on the light then.
3. A : You must complete it by Wednesday.
 B : I don't think I can.
4. A : We're going to the zoo tomorrow.
 B : That's splendid!
5. A : Which one d'you want?
 B : I'll have this one.
 A : This one's taken already.
 B : Then I don't want any.

The Rising Tone

When we use a rising tone on the nucleus, the pitch starts at a low level and keeps on rising till the end of the group. We shall indicate this tone with a slanting mark pointing upward, place at the bottom of the line before the nucleus. This tone is generally used in.

- (a) questions that demand an answer in *yes* or *no*; for example.
1. 'Have they gone?
 2. 'Will he agree?
 3. D'you know them?
- (b) 'incomplete' utterances which form part of a sentence, quite often subordinate clauses.
 For example,
1. 'If it rains / we'll 'go by `taxi.
 2. Al'though she was ill, / she 'took her e`xam.
 3. It's 'time for the lecture / but no one has `come.
 4. By the 'time I got there / it was al / ready `dark.

5. I'd 'take you 'sightseeing / if I 'had the time.
- (b) *wh*-questions which are said in warm friendly way; for example,
1. 'What's your 'name? (to a small child)
 2. 'How's your 'mother?
- (d) Polite requests or encouraging invitations; for example,
1. 'Could I 'borrow your 'pen?
 2. 'Please 'pour me some 'water?
 3. 'Do come in.
- (e) alternative questions; for example,
1. Would you like tea, / coffee, or a `soft drink?
 2. Shall we 'walk / or 'go by 'bus?

Exercise 12

Look at the following phrases and sentences and listen to them on the cassette. They are all said with the rising tone on the nucleus. Practise saying them with the correct intonation.

1. 'Don't bother.
2. I'm 'so 'sorry.
3. 'See you soon.
4. 'Good 'bye.
5. 'Come again soon.
6. Let me 'know how you get 'on
7. 'Dont for'get to 'write.

Exercise 13

Now look at these longer utterances in which the nucleus has the rising tone. Listen to them and practise saying them. Make sure the pitch of your voice moves on the nucleus from a lower level to a higher level.

1. Have you 'heard the 'latest latest ?
2. Did you re'member to 'lock the 'front door?
3. Are you 'sure you can 'do it you 'self?
4. Would you 'like another 'slice of 'bread?

Exercise 14

Here are sentences that have two tone groups. In the first tone groups, the nucleus has the rising tone and in the second tone group, the nucleus has the falling tone. Notice that the main clause is generally said with the falling tone and the dependent clause with the rising tone. Listen to these sentences and practise saying them aloud.

1. 'If I am late / 'don't `wait for me.
2. As 'soon as you 'finish you homework / you can 'go out and `play.
3. Al'though they are 'very 'poor / they are ex'tremely `honest.

4. 'After we've had our dinner / we'll go for a walk.
 5. At the bottom of the shelf / you'll find my dictionary.

Exercise 15

The following short dialogues will give you more practice in the use of the rising tone. Listen to them and then read them aloud.

1. A : 'Shall I write it down?
 B : 'If you like.
2. A : Did you say you were leaving to night?
 B : 'That's right.
3. A : Can I have a word with you?
 B : 'please come in.
4. A : I'll see you off at the airport.
 B : 'Don't bother.
5. A : 'Will you be staying there long?
 B : 'Not if I can help it.
6. A : D'you mind counting those sheets?
 B : ,One / ,two / ,three / ,five / ,six / ,seven / ,eight / `nine.

Exercise 16

Listen to these dialogues recorded on the cassette and mark stress and intonation. After checking your answers, read each dialogue aloud.

1. A : Have you answered the letter?
 B : Yes, I have.
2. A : Shall I answer the door?
 B : If you don't mind.
3. A : Is anything the matter?
 B : I've failed the exam.
 A : Give it another try.
 B : I don't think I can ever succeed.
 A : I'm sure you can.
4. A : Are you leaving today?
 B : Yes, I'll be away for three months.
 A : Let me know how you get on.

Exercise 17

As we have said, *yes-no* questions are normally said with a rising intonation. Invitations that are expressed in the form of *yes-no* questions are therefore to be said with the rising tone. Listen to these bits of dialogue and then say them as marked.

1. I (Invitation) : Would you like to come to dinner to night?
 R (Response) : I'd love to.

2. I : Would you 'like to 'go to a ,concert next week?
R : `Yes, / ,thanks. / I'd `love to.
3. I : Would you 'like to 'go to a ,party this leaving to-topiweek ,end
R : I'd `love to.
4. I : Would you 'like to 'go ,shopping to ,morrow?
R : `Yes, / ,thanks. / I'd `love to.
5. I : D'you 'feel like 'going to a ,movie this ,evening?
R : I'd `love to.

Exercise 18

Here are some more sentences for you to listen to and practise. This time you should pay attention not only to the expressions used for inviting people but also to the different expression used in accepting the invitations. Say each sentence as marked.

1. I (Invitation) : We're 'going for a `picnic this ,Sunday.
Would you 'like to ,join us?
R (Response) : `Yes, / ,thanks, / I'd `love to.
2. I : We're 'having a `party this week ,end.
We'd 'like you to `come.
R : That's very `kind of you. / `Thank you.
3. I : We're 'going to the `lake this ,evening.
Can you ,come?
R : Oh, `yes. / I'd 'like that very `much.
4. I : We'd like to 'have you for `dinner on ,Saturday.
Is 'that all ,right with you?
R : 'That'll be `marvellous.
5. I : I'm going `shopping to ,morrow.
: 'How about `joining me?
R : 'That'll be `nice.

24.3 LET US SUM UP

We have now come to the end of Foundation Course in English (1) and hope you have found it both useful and interesting. We have tried in these 24 units to improve your proficiency in English by developing your skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. You will now be able to use the language more effectively for your studies and for various other purposes in life.

24.5 KEY WORDS

de'cline : say politely that one cannot accept (the invitation, etc.)

di'rection : telling somebody the way to some place

into'nation : patterns of tone (i.e., pitch movement)

invi'tation : a polite request asking somebody to come (to dinner, etc.)

pro_nunci'ation : the way in which words are pronounced.

24.5 ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

Exercise 8

The division will come after.

1. home, 2. answer, 3. else, 4. answer, 5. papers, find

Exercise 11

1. A : I'm leaving to `night.
B : 'When will you re`turn?
2. A : It's 'rather `dark in,here.
B : 'Switch on the `light then.
3. A : You must com'plete it by `Wednesday.
B : I'don't think I`can.
4. A : We're 'going to the `zoo to,morrow.
B : 'That's `splendid!
5. A : 'Which one d'you `want?
B : 'I'll have `this one.
A : 'This one's 'taken al`ready.
B : 'Then I 'don't want `any.

Exercise 16

1. A : Have you 'answered the ,letter?
B : Yes, I `have.
2. A : Shall I 'answer the ,door?
B : 'If you don't ,mind.
3. A : Is 'anything the ,matter?
B : 'I've 'failed the ex`am.
A : 'Give it a'nother ,try.
B : I 'don't think I can 'ever suc`ceed.
A : I'm 'sure you ,can.
4. A : Are you 'leaving to ,day?
B : `Yes. I'll be a'way for 'three `months.
A : 'let me 'know how you get ,on.