



# How to Teach Tone of Voice Without Making Speaking Feel Artificial

S06E20 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

## Teaching focus

Keep the words familiar and change the situation or intention. We can listen to contrasting versions, identify the vocal clues and try a delivery that fits the speaker's message.

## Our suggested routine

1. A simple tone-of-voice lesson sequence Here is a low-preparation sequence you can adapt for one-to-one lessons or groups. Stage 1: Notice Say one everyday line twice using contrasting tones. Learners identify the possible emotions and the vocal clues they heard. Stage 2: Copy Model one version in short chunks. Learners repeat it, concentrating on one feature such as pace or sentence stress. Stage 3: Choose Learners select an emotion card and repeat the same line. Their partners guess the intended feeling. Stage 4: Add context Give each pair a short situation. They decide how the speaker feels and rehearse an appropriate response. Stage 5: Personalise Learners choose a sentence they genuinely use, in a meeting, a social introduction, a phone call or a customer conversation, and practise versions suitable for different situations. Stage 6: Reflect Ask: What changed, speed, pitch, stress, volume or pauses? Which version communicated the intention most clearly?

## After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

## Notes for our next lesson

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