

Reading with Expression

The elements to consider when reading aloud are defined below.

TONE

Suggests your mood and/or your intention.

PACE

The speed at which you speak. Varying speed can show changes in emotions, such as increased fear.

PAUSE

Taking a pause can help to express emotion and to place emphasis on certain parts of a text.

INTONATION & PITCH

Speaking in a high, low or natural voice. For example, when a person is nervous or excited, their pitch may be higher than normal.

VOLUME

How loud or quiet your voice is. Varying volume can communicate different emotions.

EMPHASIS

The pressure, or stress, that is placed on certain words/phrases to draw attention to specific content or even change the meaning of what is said.

Try reading the text in different ways and see how it affects the meaning. You can then decide which you think may be best.

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The following questions are useful to consider for each of the elements when you're reading with expression. They all link to the overarching question: What mood or feeling do you want to convey through your voice?

TONE

What tone do you want to present? For example: anger, disappointment, regret etc.

PACE

Would a faster or slower pace work better? Would this change in different parts of the text?

PAUSE

Where in the text might a pause reflect a feeling or place emphasis on what you're saying?

INTONATION & PITCH

Would a higher or lower pitch suit different words or sentences in what you're reading?

VOLUME

How could increasing or decreasing the volume at different points in the text help you to communicate the relevant emotions?

EMPHASIS

Which words/phrases could be drawn attention to in order to highlight specific content or even change the meaning of what is said?

What do you think would be the best way to place emphasis on the areas you've identified? Think about pauses, intonation, volume and pace.



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