

Excerpt from How to Speak like a Broadcaster and Lead like a CEO (2017, 2011, 2008) Elizabeth Peterson, M.A.CCC-SLP www.SpeechAndVoice.com

- Notice the same pitch style in the other two examples.

Note: As a reminder, a syllable is an individual sound segment or beat in a word, which is usually a consonant and vowel combination. For example, “cat” is a one-syllable word, “pizza” is a two-syllable word and “computer” is a three-syllable word.

The next time you watch the news pay close attention to the broadcasters. You will be able to identify pitch changes and hear the “speech stairs” intonation in their statements. A good activity for improving your understanding of the speech stairs is to repeat lines from news broadcasters. Mute the television and try to say the line you just heard in the same spoken style.

Hold the vowel sound longer (or stretch out your sounds) on each step to slow down your speed and decrease your force, if you are a fast talker or have the habit of mumbling. This will also help you to increase your projection and volume.

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