

## Lucid Accent Consulting

### Sentence Stress/Intonation

Word stress changes the underlying meaning of a sentence and the focus of attention or emphasis. If your word stress is consistent, it may sound predictable, boring or atypical. In English, we stress a specific word based on 3 things:

- 1) Loudness
- 2) Length
- 3) Pitch

“I don’t think he should get that job”

#### Sentence

I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job  
I don’t think he should get that job

#### Meaning

Someone else thinks he should get the job  
It’s not true that I think he should get the job  
I’m not sure he’ll get that job  
Someone else should get that job  
It is wrong that he’s going to get that job  
He should have to earn the job  
He should get another job  
He should pursue something else instead

“I said she might consider a new haircut”

#### Sentence

I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut  
I said she might consider a new haircut

#### Meaning

It was my idea  
Did you understand me?  
Clarifying it was her and not someone else  
It’s a possibility  
She should think about it. It’s a good idea  
Not just a haircut but a new one  
Clarifying it was regarding a haircut

#### More Examples

I like your car  
She said she did not take his money  
I love your mother’s cooking  
I didn’t say we should kill him  
I never said she stole my money  
I asked you to buy me a bunch of red roses