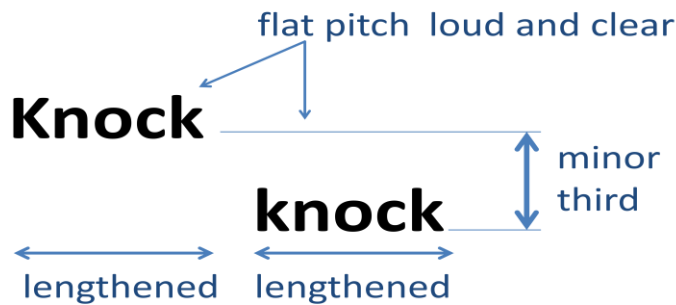


The Minor Third Pattern - Summary Sheet



Prosodic Properties

1. A sharp pitch drop,
2. Between two syllables,
3. Each syllable flat in pitch,
4. Each syllable loud, clear, and lengthened,
5. Not too ending too low in pitch.

General Meaning

- Indicate to the interlocutor that he should pay attention, and respond right away

Context of use

- When there is a social norm that licenses you to invoke a specific response

Common use scenarios

- In games, to initiate a response sequence (*knock-knock, nyah-nyah ...*)
- In greetings and partings, to cue a symmetric response (*hello, bye-bye ...*)
- When you have the turn, to cue the other person to wait while you do something (*hold on, just a sec....*)
- When someone else is speaking, to make them stop (*excuse me ...*)
- When you need to catch someone's attention (*hey there, over here, excuse me, Johnny ...*)
- When you need someone to move a little so you can pass (*excuse me ...*)
- *etc.*

References

- The Prosodic Patterns of English Conversation website: <http://www.cs.utep.edu/nigel/patterns/>
- The Minor-Third Pattern video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XndORkgACuc>
- Stylized Intonation, D. Robert Ladd, Jr. *Language*, 54, pp 517-540, 1978
- Speech, Song, and the Minor Third: An Acoustic Study of the Stylized Interjection. Jeremy Day-O'Connell, *Music Perception*, 30, pp 441-462, 2013.

Acknowledgements

- Ricky A. Garcia, The University of Texas at El Paso

