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.*

Acknowledgement

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For more information, see Chapter 3 of *Prosodic Patterns of English Conversation*, Cambridge 2019.

For more lesson plans, etc., <http://www.cs.utep.edu/nigel/english-prosody/teaching/>

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