**Did you ever hear a presenter  
speak in Mon-O-Tone?**

[**http://www.nosweatpublicspeaking.com/verbal-communication-2-inflection/**](http://www.nosweatpublicspeaking.com/verbal-communication-2-inflection/)

**Inflection, or Voice Modulation,** is “change in the pitch or tone of the voice.” Varying your tone throughout the speech \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your voice slightly to indicate a question, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it to end a declarative sentence, speaking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to indicate excitement or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to express sadness, will help keep your audience awake and alert!

There are several kinds of inflection: **Upward** – **Downward** – **Level** – and **Circumflex**.  
Let’s look at each of them:

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Inflection**

* This is when there is a change in pitch going from a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ note within the vowel
  + Most often, this change in pitch indicates questioning, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, surprise or suspense.
    - Examples: Raise the pitch at the end of these words, keeping in mind what they convey with a downward inflection.
      * No!
      * Wow!
      * Really

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Inflection**

* This is when there is a change in pitch going from a higher to a lower note within the vowel.
  + Most often, this change in pitch indicates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, finality, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and certainty.
    - Examples: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the pitch at the end of these words. keeping in mind what they convey with a downward inflection.
      * Done
      * No
      * Go

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Inflection**

* This is when there is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ change in pitch within the vowel.
  + Most often, this indicates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and indecision.
    - Examples: Don’t vary the pitch in these words.
      * OK
      * Maybe
      * Fine

***Double* or *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Inflection**

* This is when there is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *or* a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of pitch within the vowel.
  + Most often, this change in pitch indicates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, finality, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and certainty.
    - Examples: Lower the pitch at the end of these words. keeping in mind what they convey with a downward inflection.
      * Done
      * No
      * Amazing

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*your inflection at the end of a sentence makes it more powerful and gives the audience the impression you believe your own message.

Use *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*inflections in the middle of a sentence to make the sentence more interesting and bring some attention to your point.

It’s important to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the pitch.  It will help keep your audience in tune (no pun intended!) with your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its substance.

Amazing, isn’t it, how the entire meaning of a sentence can change by inflecting one of its words? Use this tool in delivering your speech and you’ll see fewer yawning faces in the audience! One excellent way to get the attention of the audience is to *lower* your voice.  It’s a pattern interrupt that sends out the message, “Listen – *This* is important!”

This technique is particularly effective if you’re speaking with excitement and passion, and suddenly pause . . . lower your voice, and say, “ . . .”The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your voice gets, the more important the message is perceived to be.The concept is analogous to telling secrets.  We lower our voice, and the recipient *must* listen more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This has to be done \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and sparingly or the effect will be minimal.  Done correctly and you can create a WOW moment for your audience!

**VoiceThread Excersize**

Using the voicethread program complete the following excersize:

Try the following exercise to demonstrate the importance this can have in your delivery.

Say slowly, and out loud, this sentence:  “I did not say he lost the keys.”

Each time you say it, put the **Inflection** on the underlined word.

Exercise:

* “I did not say he lost the keys.”           (If not you, who said it?)
* “I did not say he lost the keys.”           (Maybe you wrote it?)
* “I did not say he lost the keys.”           (I guess someone else lost the keys.)
* “I did not say he lost the keys.”           (Perhaps he gave them away?)
* “I did not say he lost the keys.”           (Gee! I hope he didn’t lose the car!)