

# Learning together

## Reading with Intonation According to Punctuation

### ACTIVITY #6

SEQUENCE: DEVELOPING FLUIDITY -  
READING WITH INTONATION ACCORDING  
TO PUNCTUATION - PRIMARY

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### Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to get your child to read with intonation according to the punctuation marks in a sentence.



### Relevance of the activity

"You should get to work."

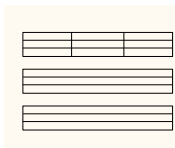
"You should get to work!"

The type of sentence differs because of the final punctuation in a sentence, and by the same token, influences the intonation with which we read it. Reading accurately and at a good pace essentially demonstrates that your child can decode words easily and group them logically. However, it is intonation that will give life to the text they are reading. When your child varies their voice by observing punctuation marks, *it not only makes reading more enjoyable, but more importantly, better reflects their understanding.*



### Supplies

■ Sentences in appendix



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## LET'S GO!

### Explain the activity:



We will learn to read by changing the intonation of your voice according to the punctuation in the sentence.

### Explain why:



Listen carefully to what I'm reading. (monotonous reading)

**Martin was walking in the forest. Suddenly, a bear appears before him. How big it is! What is he going to do? Should he run? For a moment, he doesn't move and he thinks that he should turn back. Finally, the bear decides to go eat the wild fruit a little further away. Phew! Martin is relieved. What other surprise awaits him?**

What do you notice? You're right. It's not very much fun listening to me. My voice always remains the same. Now listen:

**Martin was walking in the forest . Suddenly , a bear appears before him . How big it is ! What is he going to do ? Should he run ? For a moment , he doesn't move and he thinks that he should turn back . Finally , the bear decides to go eat the wild fruit a little further away . Phew ! Martin is relieved . What other surprise awaits him ?**

See how much more interesting it is listening to me when I read that way? My intonation must change according to the different punctuation marks. Reading is more enjoyable and it allows you to better understand the meaning of what you are reading.

### Explain when:



So every time you read, your intonation must vary according to the punctuation in the sentence.

### Try it together:



Each punctuation mark tells you whether your voice should go up or down. To help you, I will make a signal with my hands, like a conductor!

Let's take Martin's story again.

When you see a period, the tone of your voice must go down to show that the sentence is over. So, my hands will go down to show you:

**Martin was walking in the forest. Suddenly, a bear appears before him.**

hands make a downward curve at the end

Now it's your turn. Try to have the same intonation. I will wave my hand to help you. Great! You can tell it is the end of the sentence.

For the exclamation mark, the tone of voice should go up at the end of the sentence. My hands will go up this time:

**How big it is!**

hands make an upward curve at the end

Your turn!

For the question mark, your voice will also go up. Listen closely:

**What is he going to do?**

hands curve upward at the end, like a roller coaster lift hill

Read the sentences along with me.

Now it's your turn to take over the rest of Martin's story. I will guide you by making the signals with my hands. Then, we can practise with other sentences.



### Quick tip!

To replace the hand signals, you can also draw an arrow (up or down) above the punctuation marks using a pencil. This is another way to indicate the necessary tone change when your child reads.

#### Example:

The dog jumps when he sees people walk by in the street. ↘

↗ What's your name?

↗ The weather is so nice outside!

## Sentence bank

### Example from the capsule

Martin was walking in the forest. Suddenly, a bear appears before him. How big it is! What is he going to do? Should he run? For a moment, he doesn't move and he thinks that he should turn back. Finally, the bear decides to go eat the wild fruit a little further away. Phew! Martin is relieved. What other surprise awaits him?

### Another example

Julie was so upset! It is her birthday today. She was decorating her living room when we rang at the door. Are her friends already here? It's much too early! Julie looks out the window, but she doesn't see anything. So she opens the door. Suddenly, her cousins jump out in front of her with a big bunch of balloons. What a nice surprise! They're going to have a lot of fun!