Stress intonation for accent reduction and pronunciation

These are important focus points for accent reduction and pronunciation:

- High and low intonation contrast
- Wider pitch range
- Stronger vowel sounds

Essential components for accent and pronunciation:

- Intonation - Time Stress - Pitch - Volume - Linking Connecting - Added Stress

Even though pitch may be more relevant to intonation, volume is still an important consideration. Higher pitches sound louder and are perceived as having more volume. Higher pitches stand out more, which is why we hear treble instruments as being up front in musical ensembles or groups and bass instruments as being supportive, more in the background, and forming a foundation. The perception is that bass sounds, or lower end sounds, are not as loud as treble, or higher end sounds.

The difference between prominent words and syllables and words and syllables that receive added stress is important. Words or syllables that are more prominent are not regarded as marked intonation patterns, whereas words and syllables to which a speaker gives added stress are regarded as marked intonation patterns. Marked intonation is not neutral. Speakers can affect meaning and how listeners receive a message when they add stress to words. Affecting meaning in this way is a salient feature of native-speaker English, and it’s important that non-native English speakers develop this as a technique and skill not only for accent reduction but, also, for speaking skills and communication skills.