

Section 2.6 Exercises: !H*

A. & B.: Listening and Labelling exercises:

For this section's exercises, there are 5 batches containing labelled soundfiles (.wav and .TextGrid). If you don't get assigned a batch in class, please email the course staff to ask for one. *When possible, work with a partner or small group. Each batch will be assigned to several different people.*

In each batch, you will find:

1. 15 pairs of soundfiles and labelled TextGrids, all containing examples where one or more labeller used the !H* pitch accent label.
2. An excel spreadsheet which has: a) each filename in the batch b) the tone labels (in sequence) and c) the word labels. It may be useful to print this file.

Notes about the files: The files contain mostly read speech, but each batch should have one or two excerpts taken from longer spontaneous speech files. Each batch should have a range in terms of the number of pitch accents in a phrase, and more than one phrase accent-boundary tone combination. The files should only contain labels that have been introduced so far, but it's possible that some unfamiliar labels may have passed through the "filter." *Additionally, these files may contain actual errors.*

Your task:

1. Listen carefully to each soundfile before you look at the pitch track or TextGrid. Try to pick out which words/syllables have a !H* pitch accent (if any), and which syllable/word has the initial pitch accent with a High element (which must be in the phrase if there is a !H*). You might want to mark on the spreadsheet the syllables that you hear as pitch-accented. (Evaluate the files in any order you choose; it may be fun/useful to evaluate pairs of files with the same text/words. Each batch should have at least one such pair.)
2. Look at the soundfile and TextGrid together. Compare and evaluate your choices to the labels in the TextGrid. Do they agree? Where there is disagreement, consider which labels you prefer, and why. (Please don't consider the existing TextGrids as "answers.")
3. Adjust the TextGrid labels (as needed) according to your decisions, and save it with your initials appended to the filename. If you make no changes to the TextGrid, you need not resave.
4. Feel free (and please do!) to make adjustments to the TextGrids beyond those involving pitch accents: many of these files may have errors, omissions, sloppy alignments, or other strangeness. Adjust them according to the conventions we have used to date. Save these TextGrids with your initials appended as well.

5. Pick out 2 or 3 files from your batch (more if you like) that you feel have clear instances of !H*--and that you think a new labeller would be able to label. Mark these in your Excel sheet, and upload the spreadsheet to your anita directory with your initials appended to the filename. Also make a note of any files that made you want to pull your hair out, and that you think would be very difficult for a new labeller. Any other comments you'd like to make about the files in your batch are also welcome!

C. Further exercises:

Produce and record your own !H* examples.

1. Try the following text and tone sequences. How many sequential !H* pitch accents can you produce? (Add more words if you can keep going...)

A banana. H* L-L%

Another banana. H* !H* L-L%

Another yellow banana. H* !H* !H* L-L%

Another little yellow banana. H* !H* !H* !H* L-L%

2. Pick any file(s) from section 2.6, or a favorite from the listening/labelling exercises above, and reproduce in your own voice. Save and upload your versions using the filename ex6c2, plus a keyword and your initials.

Batches of exercises:

ex2-6_batch1.zip

ex2-6_batch2.zip

ex2-6_batch3.zip

ex2-6_batch4.zip

ex2-6_batch5.zip