

How Native English Speakers Use Their Voices

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| <p>SCARED OR AFRAID</p> <p>The voice tone is tight, strained, fast, all at the same high level. Can become incoherent.</p> | <p>TERRIFIED</p> <p>Similar to scared, but the voice may trail off..., or the speaker in fact becomes rigid with fear, and is rendered speechless.</p> | <p>BORED</p> <p>Voice is at low levels-all the same; no excitement shown or enthusiastic voice tone; head may be turned away; no eye contact etc.</p> |
| <p>HAPPY</p> <p>Similar to excited, but may sound fuller and rounder; characterized by smiles, laughter, chuckles, and barely suppressed excitement.</p> | <p>AMAZED OR ASTONISHED</p> <p>Similar to excited, but may be more strained, and consistently higher in tone.</p> | <p>AMUSED OR INTERESTED</p> <p>Similar to excited, but with lower voice tone. The term “sardonically amused” is appropriate here.</p> |
| <p>ANGRY</p> <p>A throatier, more resonant voice tone; sometimes slow, with pauses between groups of words; teeth perhaps clenched. Going out of control: voice gets tighter, higher, words are faster, sometimes clipped off, increasing in volume.</p> | <p>UPSET</p> <p>Voice not so deep; sounds strained, slower with pauses; if disappointed, may sound wheedling or have a manipulative, guilt-inducing tone.</p> | <p>EXCITED</p> <p>Voice is higher, faster, with less pauses; shows more intonation and variation in pitch; sometimes tighter (sounds like it’s coming from the back of the throat).</p> |