

## Akan prosody

- In general - h, l (register tones): for downsteps/terracing  
- tone neutralization – sentence-final H-tone drops to a low pitch level
- Interrogatives - raised pitch register (compared to declaratives)
- Polar questions - L% (low boundary tone) at the right edge of the intonation phrase  
- L% introduces final vowel lengthening & intensity increase  
- perceptual test: final syllable signals sentence type (dec. vs. Q)
- Declaratives - Potentially a boundary tone (we see pitch decrease in the last two syl)

### Complex declaratives

Complementizer sent.- pitch reset, pause, no pre-pause lengthening

Left-dislocated sent. - pitch reset, pause, no pre-pause lengthening

Coordination struct. - no pitch reset, pause, no pre-pause lengthening

-> pitch reset at the left edge of an embedded intonation phrase

- Imperatives - no tone neutralization sentence-finally (final HL and LH are distinctive)  
-> no final boundary tone?  
- much higher pitch on the verb (prominence effect) at the 2nd syllable  
- possible interplay between prominence and boundary effect

- Focus - pitch register lowering in corrective focus  
(wide > informative > corrective)  
- prosodic breaks (“glottal stops”) for focused constituents  
- high pitch prior to the focused constituent? pre-focus lengthening?  
- no complete tone neutralization as well