

## NUCLEAR TONES

The *nuclear tones* are the rising, falling or level tune endings which take place on the nucleus or start from it. There are seven of these nuclear tones. The last accented word, i.e. the nucleus, is made to stand out by a combination of stress and the pitch features of the nuclear tones.

In the following examples the nuclear tones are shown using a graphic method of large and small dots. Also, a more convenient method is used to mark intonation. This consists of placing a single symbol immediately before the nucleus to indicate the nuclear tone; this symbol tells us, by its position and its shape, which syllable is the nucleus of the tune and which of the seven main endings is to be used.

<i>Low Fall:</i>	\Two.	\Twenty.	\Seventy.
<i>High Fall:</i>	^Two.	^Twenty.	^Seventy.
<i>Rise-Fall:</i>	~Two.	~Twenty.	~Seventy.
<i>Low Rise:</i>	,Two.	,Twenty.	,Seventy.

Source: O'Connor, J.D. & G.F. Arnold (1973) Intonation of Colloquial English. Essex, England: Longman Group Ltd.

