

The Elements of Tone

How to make your voice more interesting and effective.

Quality: *Shows a character or characteristic.*

- Nasal – in the nose, not at all pleasant.
- Oral – in the front of the mouth.
- Normal – Everyday speaking, conversational.
- Guttural – Back of the throat.
- Aspirate – Breathy.
- Orotund – Rich, resonate, and pleasing.

Strength: *Audibility. Gives words meaning.*

- Emphasizing various words in a sentence can change the meaning:
“I did not say she stole the money”
- Add contrast, like dynamics in music:
 - Pianissimo (pp) very soft
 - Piano (p) soft
 - Mezzo Piano (mp) medium soft
 - Mezzo Forte (mf) medium loud
 - Forte (f) loud
 - Fortissimo (ff) very loud
 - Crescendo, soft to loud
 - Decrescendo, loud to soft

Time: *Adds variety.*

- Affected by sounds and spaces between sounds.
- A regular tempo is what we call monotonous
- Rate: slow, medium fast.
- Avoid too slow, the audience gets bored.
- Avoid too fast, the audience can't follow along.

Pitch: *Reveals thoughts and emotions. It's the range of tones in the voice.*

- Moves by slides or steps.
- Asks questions or shows sarcasm.
- Shows how the speaker feels about what is being said.