Prosody: The Music of Speech

**Terminology**
You should be able to simply define or explain the following terms and concepts.

- Creaky voice
- Fundamental Frequency
- Given information
- Harsh voice
- Intensity
- Intonation
- Intonation unit
- New information
- Phrasal accent
- Pitch
- Prosodic style
- Prosody
- Regulatory intonation unit
- Segmental properties
- Substantive intonation unit
- Suprasegmental properties
- Terminal pitch contour
- Timing
- Voice quality
- Wave form

**Important Points and Concepts**
- Prosody is a cover term for variations in pitch, loudness, timing, and voice quality; these can be partially transcribed
- Prosody functions to delimit units of speech, mark the relation between them, mark some elements as prominent with respect to others, and convey emotion
- Spoken language is produced in intonation units, which can be regulatory or substantive
- Marking of prominence reflects the structure of discourse, such as the activation cost of referents, and can direct listener’s attention to what the speaker deems important
- Prosody can be used to convey emotion and attitude, and can be used for significant rhetorical effect

**Skills**
By the end of this unit, you should be able to:
- Divide stretches of spoken discourse into intonation units
- Identify and transcribe terminal pitch contours
- Mark pauses, prominent syllables, and lengthening of vowels or consonants in a prosodic transcription
- State the phonetic features that characterize prominent syllables
- Distinguish substantive from regulatory IUs
- State how different voice qualities are produced
- Discuss how prosody is used to convey emotion or evaluation in a given stretch of speech