

Using stress to make additional meaning

http://bogglesworldesl.com/askthomas_intonation.htm

Consider the following rejoinder:

I did not say you stole my red hat.

At the moment, nothing is particularly stressed. The meaning seems fairly obvious.

But what if some stress is placed on the first word "I".

I did not say you stole my red hat.

Then the meaning contains the idea that someone else said it, not me.

Accent the second and third word and you get another shade of meaning.

*I **did not** say you stole my red hat.*

Strong anger and denial of the fact.

*I did not **say** you stole my red hat.*

But I implied it that you did. Did you?

*I did not say **you** stole my red hat.*

I wasn't accusing you. I know it was someone else

*I did not say you **stole** my red hat.*

I said you did something else with it, or maybe borrowed it.

*I did not say you stole **my** red hat.*

I meant that you stole someone else's red hat

*I did not say you stole my **red** hat.*

I said that you stole my blue hat.

*I did not say that you stole my red **hat**.*

I said that you stole my red bat. You misunderstood my pronunciation.

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Strong anger and denial of the fact.

Directions: With a partner take turns reading the sentence while stressing the word in bold. Then determine and note what additional meaning the stressed word is implying

*I did not **say** you stole my red hat.*

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*I did not say you stole my **red** hat.*

*I did not say you stole my red **hat**.*
