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ENGLI SH PHONETICS

Lesson 29
Word & Sentence Stress

Listen to the words.

PREsent

preSENT

Stress refers to the emphasis on one syllable or part of a word when pronouncing it. The placement of stress can also change the meaning and function of a word.

REcord (noun)

reCORD (verb)

PERmit (noun)

perMIT (verb)

IMport (noun)

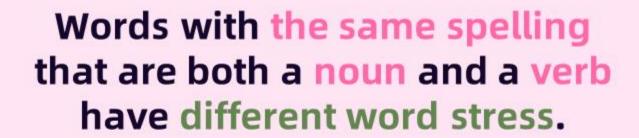
imPORT (verb)

When a noun or an adjective has two syllables, the stress is usually on the first syllable.

```
table /TA.ble/
scissors /SCI.ssors/
pretty /PRE.tty/
clever /CLE.ver/
```

When a verb or a preposition has two syllables, the stress is usually on the second syllable.

```
become /be.COME/
beside /be.SIDE/
begin /be.GIN/
between /be.TWEEN/
```



SUSpect (noun)

susPECT (verb)

REcord (noun)

reCORD (verb)

Words that are three syllables and end in 'er' or 'ly' are often stressed on the first syllable.

orderly /OR.der.ly/

manager /MAN.a.ger/

hamburger /HAM.bur.ger/

Words ending in 'ic', 'sion', and 'tion' are usually stressed on the

second-to-last syllable.

```
romantic /ro.MAN.tic/
decision /de.CIS.ion/
translation /trans.LA.tion/
```

In most compound nouns, the word stress is on the first noun.

```
classmate /CLASS.mate/
armchair /ARM.chair/
goldfish /GOLD.fish/
toothbrush /TOOTH.brush/
```

In most compound adjectives and verbs, the stress is on the second word.

```
hi-tech /hi.TECH/
checkout /check.OUT/
well-known /well.KNOWN/
understand /un.der.STAND/
```

Listen and underline the stressed syllable in each word.

1. production

4. important

2. permission

5. sugar-free

3. traveler

6. toothpaste

Sentence stress means stressing the words or syllables within a sentence to convey meaning and importance.

I work in New York. (what I do)

I work in New York. (city)

Content words are stressed.

Nouns (paper, Sam)

Adjectives (tall, blue)

Main Verbs (talk, sing)

Adverbs (slowly, quickly)

Wh-words (why, what)

Function words are unstressed.

Prepositions (in, on)

Determiners (a, an)

Conjunctions (and, but)

Helping verbs (is, are)

Pronouns (he, she)

Encircle the stressed words. Underline the unstressed words.

- The kids are at the park.
- 2 She is going to study tonight.
- 3 They'll ask the teacher for help.
- 4 Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Listen and read the sentence stressing a different word each time. Explain the differences in meaning.



WELL DONE!

Pronunciation Rule:

Word & Sentence Stress