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Stress in Words

Rajesh Kumar

Words

- A single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed.

Examples of words: bees, hair, matter, tall etc.

Syllables

- A **syllable** is a unit in a word.
- Syllables have nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants).
- Words can have several syllables.
 - One syllable words
 - Two two syllable word,
 - Three syllable words,
 - Four syllable words

Syllables

- One word may have one or more syllables

- Words with one syllables

- sun life, break, tongue

- Words with two syllables

tiger /tai-gar/

police /po-lis/

Between /bit-wiin/

marriage /maer-rij/

Syllables

- Examples of three syllable words :

energy /e-ner-jii/

heritage /he-ri-tez/

capital /kae-pi-tal/

suffering /saf-far-ing/

- Examples of four syllable words:

Invisible /in-vi-si-ble/

aquarium /a-kwae-rii-am/

education /e-du-ke-shan/

infinity /in-fi-ni-tii/

Stress Patterns

Stress patterns in words are mostly unpredictable in English. However, some general rules can be applied to many words

- When a **noun or adjective** stems from a one-syllable word, (for example *break* and *friend*), the stress usually stays on the **syllable** of the **original word**.

Example: break – BREAKable, friend – FRIENDly

- With most of the **disyllabic nouns and adjectives**, stress is on the **first syllable**.

Examples: Nouns

PRE-sent

TI-ger

BREAK-fast

Adjectives

HAND-some

EA-sy,

HA-ppi

- With most **disyllabic verbs**, stress is on the **last syllable**.

Example: in-CREASE, be-GIN

- To differentiate between a **noun** and a **verb** with the same spelling, **stress position changes**.

Example: a DEcrease (Noun) to deCREASE (Verb)

an OBject (Noun) to obJECT (Verb)

- In **compound nouns** (two words merged into one) the stress is on the **first part**.

Example: BOOKshop, NOTEbook

- The words ending in **-TION**, **-SION** and **-CIAN** are usually stressed on the **second last syllable**.

Example: e-du-CA-tion, per-MIS-sion, phy- SI- cian

- Words ending with **-IC** are usually stressed on the **second last syllable**.

Example: rea-LIS-tic, stra-TE-gic

- Words ending with –ee or –oo are usually stressed on the last syllable. Example: gau- rent- EE, shamp-OO
- Note: When in doubt, do not stress. It is better to not stress than stress the wrong syllable.



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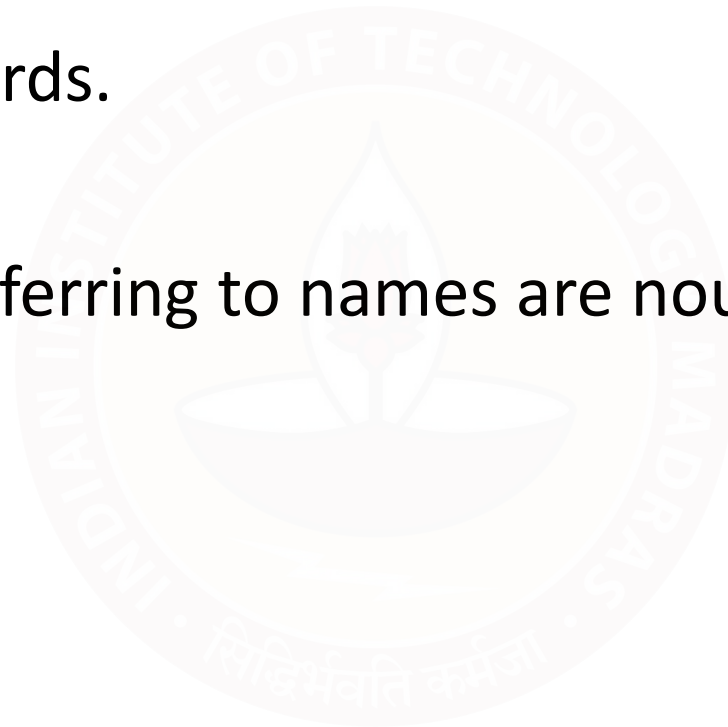
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Plurality in English

Rajesh Kumar

Words (nouns)

- Nouns are naming words.
- All words denoting/referring to names are nouns.
- They could be:
 - Singular
 - Plural



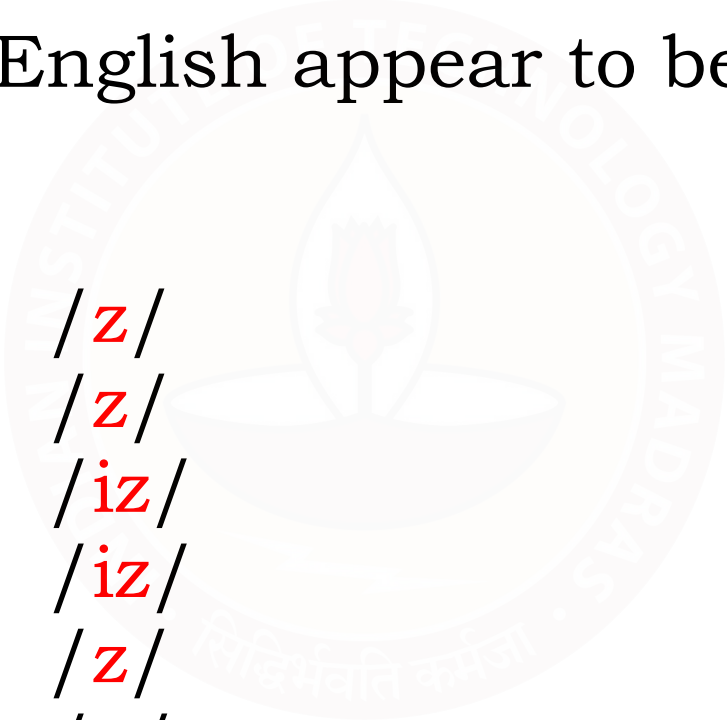
Singular and Plural Nouns

- Dog
- Friend
- Judge
- Bench
- Baby
- Book
- Cap

Dogs
Friends
Judges
Benches
Babies
Books
Caps

Plural Marking sounds

- Plural markers in English appear to be sounds like: /z/, iz/, and /s/.



• Dog s	/ z /
• Friend s	/ z /
• Judge s	/ iz /
• Bench es	/ iz /
• Baby ies	/ z /
• Book s	/ s /
• Cap s	/ s /

Morphemes

- sit
- seats
- Sits

- Five instances of the sound /s/
- Two types
- In [seats], the first /s/ does not mean anything, whereas the second /s/ is a plural marker.
- In [sits], the first /s/ does not have any meaning where as the second /s/ is a singular marker.

Understanding Plurals in English

- In words ending in sounds /p/, /t/, and /k/, the plural markers sound as /s/.
- Every where else the plural marker in English is /z/.
- There does not seem to be much of a difference between /z/ and /iz/.

Plural rule

- The rule is:
 - /Z/becomes /S/(in the environment of /p/, /t/, /k/
 - Everywhere else it remains /z/.
- The reason for this is the following: /p/, /t/, and /k/ are voiceless sounds, where /z/ is a voiced sound. In the environment of a voiceless sound, a voiced plural marker becomes voiceless.



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Aspiration in English words

Rajesh Kumar



Elements of words

- Aspiration – A feature of sound
- Syllable – A unit of words
- Stress – A feature of vowels in a syllable

Take a piece of cake.
T^hake a p^hiece of c^hake

[p], [t], [k] Voiceless stop sounds

- -asp
- -voice

• [p]

• [t]

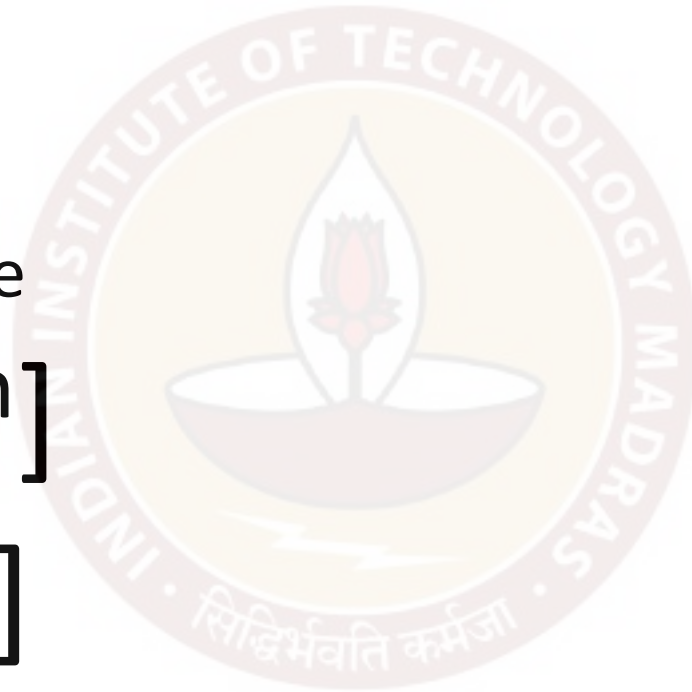
• [k]

- +asp
- voice

[p^h]

[t^h]

[k^h]



Some English Words

- Pen
- Pin
- Pan
- Park
- Tan
- Truck
- Trick
- Team
- Car
- Can
- King
- Crush

CCVC



- Cry

/k^hraai/ r is voiceless

- Try

t^h

- Plot

p^h

- Clock

k^h

- Crime

k^h

- Tie

t^h

- Town

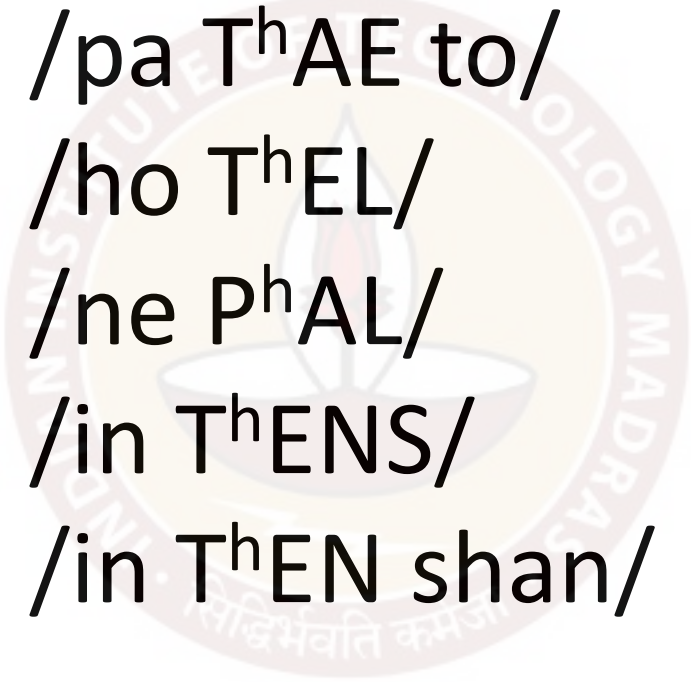
t^h

- Tank

t^h



Aspiration in stressed syllable



• Potato	/pa T ^h AE to/	(3)
• Hotel	/ho T ^h EL/	(2)
• Nepal	/ne P ^h AL/	(2)
• Intense	/in T ^h ENS/	(2)
• Intension	/in T ^h EN shan/	(3)
• deeper	/DIIP er/	(2)
• Institute	/IN stii tute/	(3)

Aspiration in stressed syllables

- attention /aet T^hEN shan/ (3)
- retain /rii T^hAEN/ (2)
- retention /rii T^hAEN shan/ (3)
- Impossible /im P^hOS si bal/ (4)
- impatient /im P^hAE shant/ (3)

Aspiration in stressed syllables

• department	/di P ^h AART ment/	(3)
• competition	/kom pii T ^h ii shan/	(4)
• decrease (v)	/di K ^h RIIZ/	(2)
• decrease (n)	/DI kriiz/	(2)
• Institution	/in sti T ^h yu shan/	(4)

Stress on 1st syllable – 2nd syllable unstressed and unaspirated

- Purple /P^hAR pal/
- Practice /P^hRAK tis/
- Circle /SAR kal/
- Turtle /T^hAR tal/
- Sample /SAM pal/
- Temple /T^hEM pal/
- Happy /HAP pi/

2nd syllable stressed – first sound aspirated

- Platonic /plae ThoN ik/ (3)
- Iconic /aai KhON ik/ (3)
- Atomic /ae ThOM ik/ (3)
- Compassion /kom PhAE shan/ (3)
- Complete /Kom PhLIIT/ (2)



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SYLLABLES & STRESS IN WORDS

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

SYLLABLES

- A syllable is a unit in which the word is divided while pronouncing it.
- A syllable should have a vowel with one or more consonants.
- One syllable words : cat, buy, force, drink , walk etc.
- Two syllable words : begin, bury, equal, happy, funny etc.
- Three syllable words: mosquito, september, department, camera, vitamin etc.
- Four syllabled words: information, january, american, discovery, dictionary etc.

That's not all ! There are words with many more syllables.

SYLLABIFICATION

ONE SYLLABLE WORDS

1. Cat - / kat /
2. Buy - / bahy /
3. Force - / force /
4. Drink - / dringk /
5. Walk - / wahk /

TWO SYLLABLE WORDS

1. Begin - / bih-gin /
2. Bury - / ber-ee /
3. Equal - / ee-qwul /
4. Happy - / hap-ee /
5. Funny - / fun-ee /

SYLLABIFICATION

THREE SYLLABLE WORDS

1. Mosquito - / muh-skee-toh /
2. September - / sep-tem-ber /
3. Department - / dih-pahrt-ment /
4. Camera - / cam-er-a /
5. Vitamin - / vi-ta-min /

FOUR SYLLABLE WORDS

1. Information - / in-for-may-shun /
2. January - / Jan-yoo-air-ee /
3. American - / uh-mer-i-kun /
4. Discovery - / dih-skuhv-er-ee /
5. Dictionary - / dih-skuhv-er-ee /

STRESS- POINTS TO KNOW

Syllables uttered with greater degree of force is said to be stressed. The three golden rules of stress in English words are :

- 1. A word can only have one stress.**
- 2. Only vowels are stressed, not consonants.**
- 3. There are many exceptions to the rules.**

WORD STRESS & RULES

1. water: **wa**-ter
2. people: **peo**-ple
3. television: **tel**-e-vi-sion
4. together: to-**geth**-er
5. potato: po-**ta**-to
6. Banana : ba-**na**-na
7. begin: be-**gin**

Two-syllable nouns & adjectives

- Rainy , Samples , Carton, Content
- In **most** two syllable nouns and adjectives, the **first syllable takes on the stress**.
- RAI-ny
- SAM-ples
- CAR-ton
- CON-tent

Two-syllable verbs & preposition

- In most two syllable verbs and prepositions, the **stress is on the second syllable**.
- re-LAX
- re-CEIVE
- di-RECT
- a-MONG
- About 80% of two-syllable words get their stress on the first syllable. There are exceptions to this rule, but very few nouns and adjectives get stress on their second syllable. Verbs and prepositions usually get stress placed on the second syllable, but there are exceptions to this too.

Suffix -Word ending in er, or and ly

- Stress is placed on the **first syllable**.

1. DI-rec-tor

2. OR-der-ly

3. MA-nag-er

Suffix - Words ending in consonants and y

- Stress is placed **on the first syllable**.

1. RA-ri-ty
2. OP-ti-mal
3. GRA-di-ent
4. CON-tain-er

Suffix – words with different endings

- Takes stress on the **syllable right before the suffix**. This applies to words of all syllable lengths.
- The suffixes are – able, ary, cian, cial, ery, graphy, ial, ian, ible, ic, ical, ics, ion, ity, ium, imum, logy, tal
- 1. able:
 - Understandable / un-der-**STAND**-a-ble /
 - DURable /**DU**-ra-ble /
- 2. ary:
 - PRIMary / **PRI**-ma-ry /
 - Diary /**DI**-a-ry/

Suffix – words with different endings

3. ible:

- VIsible / VIS-i-ble /
- terRIble, / TER-ri-ble /

4. ical:

- MAgical / MAG-i-cal /
- CRItical / CRIT-I-cal /

5. ics:

- GeNETics / ge-NET-ics /
- paediAtrics /pe-di-AT-rics /

Suffix – words ending with ee, ese, ique and ette

- the primary stress is placed on **the suffix**.

1. ee:

- agrEE / a-GREE /
- guarantee / gaur-en-TEE /

2. Ique :

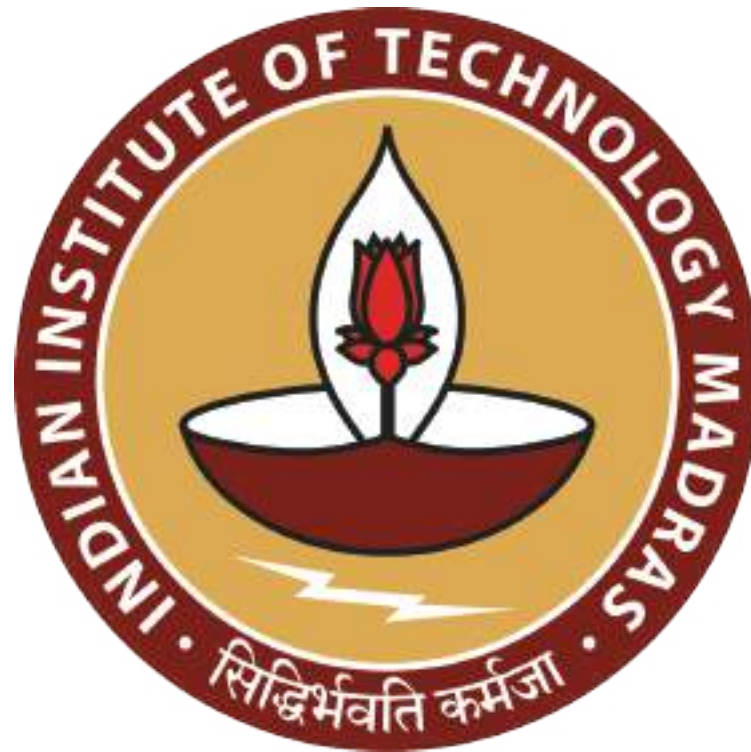
- unIQUE / u-NIQUE /
- physique / phy-SIQUE /

Prefix

- Usually, prefixes do not take the stress of a word.
- There are a few exceptions to this rule, however, like: un, in, pre, ex and mis, which are all stressed in their prefix.
- in: IN-efficient
- pre: PRE-ar-range

COMPOUND WORDS

- **Compound nouns** : a noun made out of two nouns in order to form one word.
In a compound noun, the **first word** usually takes on the stress.
- SEA-food
- TOOTH-paste
- **Compound adjectives** : an adjective composed of at least two words.
- Rock- SOLID
- Sparling- RED



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ASPIRATION, STRESS AND SYLLABIFICATION

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

Syllabification

How many syllables?

1. Lexicographer
2. Magistrate
3. Civilize
4. Is
5. Boys
6. Know
7. Linguistics
8. Sorry
9. Episode
10. Neurology

Answers

1. Lek-si-ko-gra-fe (5 syllables) / ,lək-sɪ' -kɒ-grə-fi/
2. Ma-gis-treit (3 syllables) / 'ma-dʒɪs-treit /
3. Ci-vi-laiz (3 syllables) / 'sɪ-vɪ-lʌɪz/
4. Is (One syllable) /ɪz/
5. Boiz (One syllable) /bɔɪz/
6. Know (One syllable) /nəʊ/
7. Lin -gwis-tics (Three syllables) /lɪŋ' -ɡwɪs-tɪks/
8. So-ri (2 syllables) / 'sɒ-ri/
9. e-pi-sode (3 syllables) / 'ɛ-pɪ-səʊd/
10. Nu-ro-lo-gi (4 syllables) / ,njʊə-'rɒ-lə-dʒi/

Consonant clusters

Give three examples of each of the following consonant clusters:

1. Initial – CC
2. Final – CC
3. Initial – CCC
4. Final - CCC

Answers

1. Initial – CC

Place (pl), tray (tr), dwell (dw)

2. Final – CC

Pump(mp), help (lp), adopt (pt)

3. Initial – CCC

Spring (spr), straight (str), scream (scr)

4. Final – CCC

Hands(nds) , solves (lvz), adopts (pts)

Word stress

Mark the stress on the appropriate syllable

1. Object (noun)
2. Object (verb)
3. Examination
4. Memorial
5. Dining room

Answers

1. 'Object - When a two syllable word is used as a noun or an adjective, the stress is on the first syllable.
2. Ob'ject - When a two syllable word is used as a verb, the stress is on the second syllable.
3. Exami'nation – Words ending in –ion have stress on the penultimate syllable. (the last but one syllable)
4. Me'morial – Words ending in –ial have the stress on the syllable preceding the suffix.
5. 'Dining room – Most compound words have primary stress on the first element.

Aspiration

Which among the following words have aspirated sounds?

1. Stop
2. Pot
3. Cot
4. Oppose
5. Tame

Answers

- Pot, cot, oppose and tame are aspirated.

Rules to remember

- Voiceless stops are aspirated at the beginning of a word, and at the beginning of a stressed syllable.
- Voiceless stops are unaspirated at the beginning of an unstressed syllable. They're also unaspirated in any other position, like at the end of a syllable or the end of a word.
- Even if a syllable is stressed, a voiceless stop is unaspirated if it follows [s].
- Voiced stops are never aspirated. They're always unaspirated.