



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE

WORD STRESS - 3

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STRESS ON VERBS AND ADJECTIVES

- We have seen that word stress in English is not without some pattern, but it is best to do some drill and to learn to speak some frequently used but mispronounced words correctly.
- Drill will turn speaking that way into a habit. Then new words and other words not practiced can also be pronounced correctly. Do the drill.

ACTIVITY

1. Listen to this audio clip and mark all words that have two syllables or more, and see how they are stressed.

Make a special note of words that are not stressed on either the third, or the second or the final syllable. Do some special drills with these words.

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vIkKxwiNEErkzEp5X6qnlDXxs6LlqZqt/view?usp=sharing>

Victory Speech by Kamala Harris. She is an American politician and attorney, and the Vice-President elect of the United States.

TRANSCRIPT

Congressman John Lewis, before his passing, wrote: “Democracy is not a state. It is an act.” And what he meant was that America’s democracy is not guaranteed. It is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it, to guard it and never take it for granted. And protecting our democracy takes struggle. It takes sacrifice. But there is joy in it, and there is progress. Because we the people have the power to build a better future.

ANSWERS

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ‘Congressman | ‘Lewis | be’fore | ‘passing |
| De’mocracy | ‘act | A’mérica’s | de’mocracy |
| guaran’teed | ‘willingness | ‘granted | pro’tecting |
| ‘progress | Be’cause | ‘people | ‘power |
| ‘better | ‘future | | |

2. With the book, ***Better Spoken English*** , do the drill also with words given in Chapter 7, Page Nos. 90-96.

- Some English nouns are also stressed upon the final syllable. See the following examples.

| | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| a'buse | ac'count | after'noon |
| ba'loon | ca'nal | de'gree |
| de'lay | de'light | de'sign |
| dis'pute | fa'tigue | kanga'roo |
| po'lice | re'ceipt | re'gret |
| re'quest | re'cruit | re'volt |
| rou'tine | | sa'loon |

ACTIVITY

3. Do the drill to learn to pronounce the nouns given above correctly. Add to this list by finding more nouns with many syllables, i. e. poly-syllabic nouns, that are given most prominent stress on their final syllable.

- Just as in Nouns, Verbs and Adjectives also follow some patterns. Verbs and Adjectives are mostly stressed on the final or pre-final syllable. See the following for examples.

STRESS ON ENGLISH VERBS

| Verbs stressed on pre-final syllable | Verb stressed on final syllable |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a'bolish | a'bide |
| as'tonish | ac'cept |
| con'sider | ad'just |
| con'tinue | ad'mit |
| de'liver | a'gree |
| de'posit | ar'range |
| de'velop | ar'rest |
| di'minish | be'gin |
| dis'cover | be'have |
| de'termine | com'mit |

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4. You can add to this list of verbs that are frequently used but mispronounced.

Remember these words and others on their pattern are stressed on the pre-final or final syllables. If you do not pronounce them that way, then check with the dictionary and re-learn their pronunciation through drills.

- Like verbs, most adjectives in English are also stressed on the final or pre-final syllable. See following examples.

STRESS IN ENGLISH ADJECTIVES

| On pre-final syllable | On final syllable |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a'bundant | a'brupt |
| ad'jacent | ab'surd |
| 'blatant | a'fraid |
| con'versant | con'sistent |
| cons'istent | di'vergent |
| a'nother | cor'rect |
| 'bankrupt | di'rect |
| con'sistent | di'vine |
| in'sistent | e'nough |
| im'portant | pre'cise |
| se'vere | sub'lime |

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5. Without looking up a dictionary, make a list of adjectives from your memory and see if you stress them on their final, or pre-final or upon some other syllable. In all cases of difference between your existing pronunciation and the one give above follow the pronunciation given above.

ACTIVITY

6. You can add to this list by looking up dictionary for frequently used but mispronounced words. See the following list of words taken from the dictionary at random and decide if they are nouns, verbs or adjectives and where each them should be stressed.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| absolute | arsenic | academic |
| Arabic | catholic | career |
| anonymous | certificate | chandelier |
| cosmic | cosmetic | degree |
| degree | engineer | Japanese |
| fanatic | lunatic | scientist |
| sincere | unity | vacation |

- Check with the stress marks given below. In case of any differences, relearn to speak that word correctly with proper stress, etc.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ‘absolute (A) | ‘arsenic (A) | aca’demic (A) |
| ‘Arabic (A) | ‘catholic (N) | ca’reer (N) |
| a’nonymous (N) | cer’tificate (N) | chande’lier (N) |
| ‘cosmic (A) | cos’metic (A) | de’gree (N) |
| de’gree (N) | engi’neer (N) | Japa’nese (N) |
| fa’natic (Adj) | ‘lunatic (A) | ‘scientist (N) |
| sin’cere (A) | ‘unity(N) | va’cation (N) |

Thank You