



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE

WORD STRESS- 2

Prof. SHREESH CHAUDHARY

- Stress on words in many languages is fixed; a syllable in one or another part of the word is stressed.

We will use a single inverted comma ‘ to show stress on the syllable.

- In all words in the French language, for example, that have two or more syllables, the last syllable has the most prominent stress. So, in **Pa’ris** in French, the second syllable is stressed.

- In Tamil, it is usually the first or the second syllable in a word of more than two syllables that is stressed., such as for instance ‘**Rajendran** in Tamil, usually it is the first syllable that get prominent stress.
- In Hindi, prominent stress is given on or near the final syllable of the word. So the same word, **Ra’jendran**, in Hindi may be stressed on the pre-final syllable.

- Unlike French, Tamil, Hindi, etc., word stress in English is not fixed for only a particular syllable in a particular position.

It can be on the initial syllable, as in **‘Canada**, **‘category**, **‘dictionary**, **‘India**, **‘London**, or on the final syllable as in **absen’tee**, **Ber’lin**, **bet’ween**, **Bra’zil**, **Ne’pal**, **Ja’pan**, **de’gree**, **engi’neer**, etc. or in the middle of the word, as in **adminis’tration**, **bene’ficial**, **cer’tificate**, **eco’nomic**, etc.

ACTIVITY

1. Listen to the audio recording played here, and mark stresses on all words of two or more syllables.

Link to the audio:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r5hJTbw75qsEy5HlfhRA6TIKPC2H8l_V/view?usp=sharing

Sundar Pichai , is an Indian-American business executive. Born in Madurai, India, Pichai earned degree from IIT Kharagpur. Pichai, the Google and Alphabet CEO took part in a graduation ceremony hosted by You Tube called Dear Class of 2020.

TRANSCRIPT

Hello, everyone. And congratulations to the Class of 2020, as well as your ‘parents, your teachers, and everyone who helped you get to this day. I never imagined I’d be giving a commencement speech with no live audience from my backyard. But it’s giving me a much deeper understanding for what our YouTube Creators go through!

And I certainly never thought I’d be sharing a virtual stage with a former President ... a First Lady, a Lady Gaga, and a Queen Bey ... not to mention BTS.

I don't think this is the graduation ceremony any of you imagined. At a time when you should be celebrating all the knowledge you've gained, you may be grieving what you've lost: the moves you planned, the jobs you earned, and the experiences you were looking forward to.

In bleak moments like these, it can be difficult to find hope. So let me skip right to the end and tell you what happens: you will prevail. That's not really the end of the speech, so don't get too excited. The reason I know you'll prevail is because so many others have done it before you."

ANSWERS

He'llo	'everyone	congratu'lations	'parents
'teachers	'never	i'magined	co'mmencement
'audience	'backyard	'deeper	'understanding
'certainly	'sharing	'virtual	'former
'Lady	'Gaga	'mention	gradu'ation
'ceremony	'any	'celebrating	'knowledge
'grieving	ex'periences	'moments	'difficult
pre'vail	'really	ex'cited	'reason
'many	'others	be'fore	

- Is there no rule of stress assignment in English?- No, not as simple and fixed as in many other languages we noted above.
- In Hindi or Tamil, a syllable with a long vowel is stressed.

- In many words in English also, a syllable with a long vowel is stressed

a'go	a'vow,	a'way	de'lay	de'ny
------	--------	-------	--------	-------

- In many other words in English, a vowel followed by more than one consonant is stressed

ac'count	a'dept	a'ford	a'nounce
a'mend	ap'pend	a'scend	at'tend

ACTIVITY

2. Make a list of words of two syllables with at least one long vowel, and see if it is stressed on the long vowel.
3. Make another list of words with two or three syllables with at least one vowel followed by more than one consonant, and see if this vowel is stressed.
4. Also, practice pronouncing these words with given stresses.

Stress on English Nouns

Long Words & Bi-syllabic words

‘abdomen	‘absence	‘accident
‘adult	‘advocate	‘agent
‘agency	‘any	‘allergy
appa’ratus	‘comfort	A’mérica
A’mérica	‘colleague	a’nalysis
de’corum	‘argument	‘husband

Stress on English Nouns

‘attitude	‘island	‘bureaucrat
‘bureaucrat	‘merchant	‘calendar
‘parent	‘character	‘petrol
‘citizen	‘product	‘competence
pro’fessor	de’mocracy	‘silence
‘editor	‘something	‘emphasis
‘village	‘pivot	‘cinema

ACTIVITY

5. If you stress these words differently, you should learn to stress them in the manner indicated.
6. With the help of an *Advanced Learner's Dictionary of English*, you can make a longer list of frequently used words of this kind, and learn their pronunciation with standard stresses as shown in dictionaries.

Make your own list of frequently used nouns that are stressed on the third and the second syllables from the end.

Lists of frequently used and generally misstressed words are given also in the book *Better Spoken English*.

ACTIVITY

7. Reading these words aloud, at a reasonably slow tempo and not too loud a voice can help you acquire correct pronunciation of these words, and of many other words stressed in this manner.

Thank You