**Word Stress Introduction**

To study word stress, we must understand that many words are made up of more than one syllable. A syllable is a unit of pronunciation that has only one vowel sound. The vowel sounds are related to a, e, i, o and u. All syllables are not of equal importance. Some syllables will be louder, held longer and have higher pitch than other syllables.

Example: Roses has 2 syllables. “Ros” has one vowel “o”. “es” has another vowel “e.” Don’t treat the 2 syllables equally. Only one will be stressed. For 2 syllable nouns, we usually stress the first syllable. RO-ses, not RO-SES . VIO-lets, not VIO-LETS.

HON-ey, not HON-EY

If a word has only one syllable, like “word,” the word stress is easy. There are no choices. But we will look at rules for determining stress in words with more than one syllable.

**Word Stress Rules**

1) **Nouns and adjectives** – 1st syllable (rabbit, blossom, permit, addict, conduct, pretty)

**2 or 3 word nouns (compound nouns)** – 1st word (parking lot, credit card, bookmark, football, database, laptop, baseball bat, bedroom furniture)

Example Sentences:

A. The woman has a credit card.

B. Put sunglasses on your checklist.

D. The Russian needs a green card.

E. The bus driver bought a plane ticket.

F. The football coach gave me his cell phone number.

(more compound nouns: parking lot, parking ticket, school bus, gas meter, database, desktop, bedroom, bathing suit)

**verbs** – 2nd syllable ((permit, addict, conduct, prevent, discuss, demand)

Exceptions (same whether noun or verb) – (copy, honor, market, measure, notice, practice, promise, purchase, sample, service, study, total, affect, alarm, attempt, demand, design, exchange)

Example Sentences:

1. The addict is addicted to cocaine.
2. The permit permits you to camp here.
3. Have you sampled the sample?
4. Have you studied the study?
5. Have you discussed the problem and exchanged your thoughts?

(more words that can be both nouns and verbs but change their stress:

**con**duct, con**duct**

**con**flict, con**flict**

**con**test, con**test**

**in**crease, in**crease**

**in**sult, in**sult**

**ob**ject, ob**ject**

**pre**sent, pre**sent**

**pro**gress, pro**gress**

**re**search**,** re**search**

**sub**ject, sub**ject**