

2.2. Stress-Carrying Suffixes

Suffixes that shift the main stress to the final syllable are known as stress-attracting or stress-carrying suffixes. This pattern can be summarised by the following rule:

Rule: The suffixes *-aire*, *-ee*, *-eer*, *-ese*, *-ette*, *-esque*, and *-ique* receive the primary stress.

Suffixes	Examples for Transcription
aire	billionaire /bɪljə'neə/, millionaire /miljə'neə/, questionnaire
ee	absentee, referee,
eer	engineer /'endʒɪ'nɪə/, volunteer /'vɒlən'tɪə/, mountaineer /'maʊntaɪnɪə/, pioneer
ese	Vietnamese /'vi:tne'mi:z/, Portuguese /'pɔ:tjʊ'gi:z/, -tʃʊ-/, Japanese, Journalesse
ette	silhouette /'sɪlu'et/, marionette /'mariə'net/, launderette /'lə:n'dret/, kitchenette
esque	romanesque /rəʊmə'nesk/, picturesque /'pɪktʃə'resk/, arabesque
ique	critique /kri'ti:k/, technique /tek'nɪ:k/, unique /ju:'ni:k/, boutique

Remark: The endings *-ade*, *-oo* and *-oon* may function either as word endings or as suffixes; in both cases, they take the stress.

1. persuade /pə'sweɪd/, dissuade /dɪ'sweɪd/
2. kangaroo /kæŋgə'ru:/, shampoo /ʃæm'pu:/
3. typhoon /taɪ'fu:n/, balloon /bə'lu:n/

Exceptions: Igloo /'ɪglu:/, Cuckoo /'kʊku:/, decade /'dekeɪd/, comrade /'kɒmreɪd/

2.3. Stress-Shifting Suffixes

Certain suffixes trigger a shift in the primary stress within the stem, typically moving it to the **penultimate** syllable.

1. Suffixes Causing Penultimate Stress

Rule: When the following suffixes are added to the stem, the primary stress shifts to the last syllable of the stem (or the penultimate syllable, the syllable preceding the suffix)

The suffixes: **-eous, -graphy, -ial, -ual, -ian, -ient, -ic, -ible, -logy, -ion, -ious, -ty, -ive, and -meter.**

Examples :

Suffix- ending	Examples for Transcription
ic	Athletic /æθ'letɪk/, economic /i:kə'nɒmɪk/, graphic /'græfɪk/, geographic /dʒi:ə'gæfɪk/, philosophic /fɪlə'sɒfɪk/, psychologic /saɪkə'lɒdʒɪk/, specific /spə'sɪfɪk/, scientific /saɪən'tɪfɪk/, syntactic /sɪn'tæktɪk/, semiotics /sem'iɒtɪks/, theoretic /θɪə'retɪk/, linguistics /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks/, semantics / /, phonetics.
ion	television /telɪ'veɪʒn/, revision /ri'veɪʒn/, elision /ɪ'lɪʒn/, erosion / /
tion	relation /ri'leɪʃn/, association /ə'səʊsɪ'eɪʃn/, participation / /

Most common exceptions : arabic/'ærəbɪk/, arithmetic/'ə'rɪθmətɪk/, arsenic/'ɑ:sənɪk/, Heretic /'herɪtɪk/, catholic /'kæθəlɪk/, lunatic /'lu:nətɪk/, politic/'pɔlɪtɪk/, rhetoric /'retərɪk/.

2. The verbal Suffix –ish Causing Penultimate Stress

The suffix **–ish** can appear in both adjectives and verbs.

- In **adjectives**, it does **not** change the stress. For example:
child → *childish* /'tʃaɪldɪʃ/ (the stress stays the same).
- In **verbs**, however, **–ish** changes the stress.

Rule:

English verbs that end in **–ish** usually have the stress on the syllable **just before –ish** (the penultimate syllable).

Examples:

banish /'bænɪʃ/

nourish /'nɔ:rɪʃ/

polish /'pɔ:lɪʃ/

cherish /'tʃerɪʃ/

publish /'pʌblɪʃ/

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

distinguish /dɪ'stɪŋgwɪʃ/

demolish /dɪ'mɒlɪʃ/

establish /ɪ'stæbliʃ/

Exception:

The only exception is *impoverish* /ɪm'pəvərɪʃ/.