

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	billion <u>aire</u> /bɪljə'neə/, million <u>aire</u> /mɪljə'neə/, questionn <u>aire</u>
ee	absent <u>ee</u> , refer <u>ee</u> ,
eer	engine <u>er</u> /'endʒɪ'nɪə/, volunte <u>er</u> /'vɒlən'tɪə/, mountaine <u>er</u> /'maʊntɪn'ɪə/, pioneer
ese	Vietnam <u>ese</u> /'vi:tnəm'zi:/, Portugues <u>e</u> /'pɔ:tʃʊ'gi:z/, -tʃʊ-/ , Japan <u>ese</u> , Journale <u>se</u>
ette	silhou <u>ette</u> /'sɪlu'et/, marion <u>ette</u> /'mæriən'et/, launder <u>ette</u> /'ləʊn'dret/, kitchen <u>ette</u>
esque	romanes <u>que</u> /'rəʊmə'nesk/, pictur <u>esque</u> /'pɪktʃə'resk/, arabes <u>que</u>
ique	critiqu <u>e</u> /krɪ'tɪ:k/, techniqu <u>e</u> /tek'ni:k/, uniqu <u>e</u> /ju:'ni:k/, boutiqu <u>e</u>

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

- persuade /pə'sweɪd/, dissuade /dɪ'sweɪd/
- kangaroo /'kæŋɡə'ru:/, shampoo /ʃæm'pu:/
- typhoon /taɪ'fu:n/, balloon /bə'lu:n/

Exceptions: Igloo /'ɪɡlu:/, 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	Athlet <u>ic</u> /æθ'letɪk/, econom <u>ic</u> /'i:kə'nɒmɪk/, graph <u>ic</u> /'græfɪk/, geograph <u>ic</u> /'dʒɪ:ə'græfɪk/, philosoph <u>ic</u> /fɪlə'sɒfɪk/, psycholog <u>ic</u> /'saɪkə'lɒdʒɪk/, specific /spə'sɪfɪk/, scient <u>ific</u> /saɪən'tɪfɪk/, syntact <u>ic</u> /sɪn'tæktɪk/, semiot <u>ics</u> /'semi'ɒtɪks/, theoret <u>ic</u> /θɪə'retɪk/, linguist <u>ics</u> /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks/, semant <u>ics</u> /'semi'ɒtɪks/, phonet <u>ics</u> .
ion	televis <u>ion</u> /telɪ'vɪʒn/, revis <u>ion</u> /rɪ'vɪʒn/, elis <u>ion</u> /ɪ'liʒn/, eros <u>ion</u> /ɪ'ɒʃn/
tion	relat <u>ion</u> /rɪ'leɪʃn/, associat <u>ion</u> /ə'səʊʃi'eɪʃn/, participat <u>ion</u> /pɑː'tɪpɪ'eɪʃn/

Most common exceptions : arabic/'æɹəbɪk/, arithmetic/ə'ɹɪθmətɪk/, arsenic/'ɑ:sənɪk/, Heretic /'herɪtɪk/, catholic /'kæθəlɪk/, lunatic /'lu:nətɪk/, politic/'pɒlɪtɪk/, retoric /'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 /'nʌrɪʃ/

polish /'pɒlɪʃ/

cherish /'tʃerɪʃ/

publish /'pʌblɪʃ/

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

distinguish /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃ/

demolish /dɪ'mɒlɪʃ/

establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/

Exception:

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