

Your name:

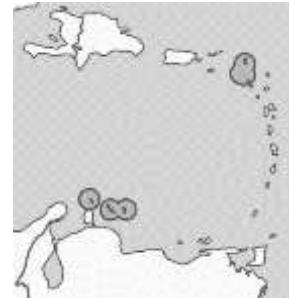
The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

Round 1



Problem 8. Stressed out in the Caribbean (20 marks)

Papiamentu is a Portuguese creole with many words taken from other European, African and local languages, spoken in the Caribbean islands of the Netherlands Antilles, and recognised there as one of the official languages. In the list of words below, the stressed (i.e. loudest) syllable is underlined. Where there is no underlining, the stress is even. Note that the accent written above some vowels (e.g. è) has nothing to do with stress.



apel	apple	karson	trousers
awero	to see	kome	to eat
bèrdè	green	makamba	white man
bòter	bottle	retené	to hold back
buriku	donkey	sinta	to sit
falta	to lack	sombré	hat
hospital	hospital	yongotá	to kneel
kachó	dog		

Q8. For each of the words a-z, write a number in your answer sheet showing which syllable carries the stress; for example, '1' means that the first syllable is stressed. If the stress is even, write '0'.

a	barbulèt	butterfly	n	kunuku	farm
b	barbulètè	butterfly	o	manteca	butter
c	buki	book	p	maribomba	wasp
d	chògògò	flamingo	q	orkan	hurricane
e	còrá	red	r	oyevar	stork
f	descansá	to rest	s	pelican	pelican
g	encargá	to blame	t	pretu	black
h	hòmber	man	u	primintí	to promise
i	investigá	to investigate	v	refresco	soda
j	kamna	to walk	w	siudat	city (= 3 syllables)
k	keshi	cheese	x	skirbi	to write
l	kontestá	to answer	y	sòru	to care
m	kòrda	to remember	z	tribon	shark

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 26)

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
3	3	1	2	1	3	3	2	4	0	1	3	0
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
2	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	0	0	2

Commentary

Rules:

1. When a word other than a verb ends in a vowel, the stress is on the penultimate syllable.
2. When a word other than a verb ends with a consonant, the stress is on the last syllable.
3. When a verb has two syllables, the syllables are equally stressed.
4. When a verb has more than two syllables, the stress is on the last syllable.

[Alternative to #1, 2: A non-verb has stress on the last vowel which is followed by a consonant.]

Comment: Of interest, at least to judge from these examples, is that stress placement can serve to indicate part of speech: if a final vowel is stressed, it must be a verb. Note also that these rules sometimes mean that the stress pattern is different to the pattern in the word's original language, e.g. apel (Dutch appel), hòmber (Spanish hombre)