

Single or return?

Stress in two-syllable words

A

C13a In a two-syllable word, one syllable is stronger than the other. This is the **stressed** syllable. In the word *answer* the first syllable is stressed. (We also say: 'The **stress** is on the first syllable.') Listen.
answer

C13b In the word *again* the second syllable is stressed. (The stress is on the second syllable.) Listen.
again

C13c Two-syllable words often have stress on the first syllable, and the vowel sound in the unstressed syllable is often the weak sound /ə/. Listen and repeat.

brother **butter** **father** **finger** **finish** **glasses** **listen** **mother** **number** **second**
sister **water** **woman**

C13d Sometimes there's no vowel sound in the unstressed syllable. Listen and repeat.
apple **people** **simple** **table** **travel**

C13e Some two-syllable words are stressed on the second syllable. Listen and repeat.

agree **alone** **arrive** **asleep** **awake**
because **begin** **behind**
complete
decide
exam **explain** **express**
perhaps **pronounce**
repeat **return**

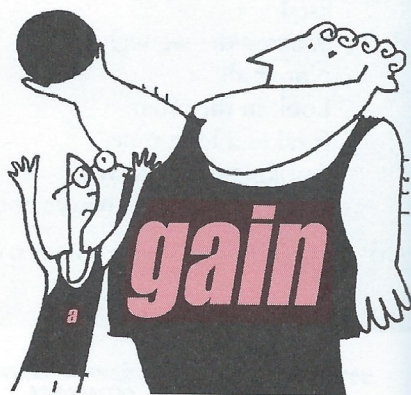
B

We can show stressed syllables like this O, and unstressed syllables like this o. So words like *answer*, *brother*, *butter* look like this Oo, and words like *again*, *because*, *decide* look like this oO.

Dictionaries usually show stress with this sign ' in front of the stressed syllable.

answer /'ɑːnsə/

again /ə'ɡeɪn/



Exercises

30.1 Listen and circle the word with different stress.

EXAMPLE

oO	oO	oO	Oo	
exam	excuse	explain	<u>extra</u>	

1 actor	after	afraid	also	4 coffee	colour	concert	correct
2 before	belong	better	between	5 English	enjoy	evening	every
3 paper	pencil	picture	police				

Check your answers with the Key. Listen and underline the stressed syllables. Then listen again and repeat.

30.2 Make words from these parts and write them in the correct column.

a re long ing er sleep

turn

words with first-syllable stress

longer

.....

.....

words with second-syllable stress

.....

.....

.....

C15 Check your answers with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

30.3 All these phrases have five syllables. O is a stressed syllable and o is an unstressed syllable. Put the phrases in the correct place.

teacher or student?	the same or different?
single or return?	behind or in front?
asleep or awake?	perhaps or maybe?
finish or begin?	reading or writing?

OooOo 1 teacher or student?
2

OoooO 1
2

oOoOo 1
2

oOooo 1
2

C16 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

30.4 Put the stress mark ' in the correct place and write the word.

EXAMPLE

/əraɪv/ → /ə¹raɪv/ arrive

1 /sɪstə/

2 /rɪlæks/

3 /pɪrpl/

4 /fɪnɪʃ/

5 /kəmplɪt/

6 /teɪbl/

7 /prənaʊns/

C17 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.