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# WEEK 7

## Word Stress

- In plays, films and theatres, artists produce sounds in any manner.
- But in natural languages, no two sounds are produced equally loud or long.
- No two syllables are produced equally loud or long; one sound or one syllable is more prominent than others.
- This is true of all languages.
- In English, difference between prominent syllable and other syllables in a word is much greater than it is in other languages.
- The most prominent syllable in a word is also generally called stressed syllable.
- Stressed syllable is much louder, and or longer or more prominent than others. And this difference is more easily seen in English than in other languages.
- In the following words, the second syllable is more prominent than the first:

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→ about, acquit, adopt, afraid,  
again, allow, beyond, between,  
beneath, beside, below, before

- similarly the following words have stress on the first syllable.

actor	artist	after	barber
certain	basket	doctor	father
garden	hostel	market	

- On words longer than one syllable, all English dictionaries show syllable with main or prominent stress.

Ex 2

- Stress on words in many languages is fixed; a syllable in one or another part of the word is stressed.
- In all the words in French language, for example, that have two or more syllables, the last syllable has the most prominent stress. So, in Paris in French, the second syllable is stressed.
- Unlike, Tamil, Hindi & French, English word stress in English is not fixed for only a particular syllable in a particular position.
- In many words in English, a syllable with a long vowel is stressed.
- a'go ; a'vow ; a'way ; de'lay ; de'ny

- In many other words in English, a vowel followed by more than 1 consonant is stressed

ac'count    a'dept    a'ford    a'nounce  
a'mend    ap'pend    a'scend    at'tend

## STRESS ON VERBS & ADJECTIVES

- Just as in nouns, Verbs & Adjectives also follow some patterns. Verbs and Adjectives are mostly stressed on the final or pre-final syllable.

### Stress on English Verbs

VERBS STRESSED ON PRE-FINAL SYLLABLE	VERBS STRESSED ON FINAL SYLLABLE
a'bolish	a'bide
as'bonish	ac'cept
con'sider	ad'just
con'tinue	ad'mit
de'live	a'gree
de'posit	ar'range
de'velop	ar'rest
di'minish	be'gin
dis'cover	be'have
de'termine	com'mit

## Stress In English Adjectives

On prefinal syllable	On final syllable
a'bundant	a'brupt
ad'jacent	ab'surd
'blatant	a'fraid
con'versant	cor'divergent
cons'istent	cor'rect
a'mother	di'sect
'bankrupt	di'vine
con'sistent	e'nough
in'sistent	pre'cise
im'portant	sub'lime
se'vere	

Question: See the following list and decide if they are nouns, verbs or adjectives and where each them should be stressed.

'absolute (A)	'arsenic (A)	aca'demic (A)
'Arabic (A)	'catholic (N)	car'seer (N)
a'nonymous (N)	cer'tificate (N)	chan'de'lier (N)
'cosmic (A)	cos'metic (A)	de'gree (N)
de'gree (N)	engi'neer (N)	Japa'nese (N)
fa'matic (A)	'lunatic (A)	'scientist (N)
in'cere (A)	'unity (N)	va'cation (N)



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## STRESS ON DERIVED WORDS

- So, for instance, to the word 'God' you can add +ly

God + ly = Godly

- To 'Godly', you can add +ness

Godly + ness = Godliness

- Or before 'Godly', you can add +Un,

Un + Godly = Ungodly

- Adding these or similar sounds, or letters while writing, to existing words, you can make many new words

- All languages make new words by adding sounds or letters to existing words. This is called 'Derivation'

- In grammar, existing word is called 'Root Word'. An added part to a Root Word is called 'Affix'

- 'Affixes' can be of two types:

PREFIX → added before root word (un-, im-, in-)

SUFFIX → added after root word (-al, -ly, -ness)

- You may have seen that in English many suffixes can affect stress assignment. After a suffix is added to the root, stress can move from one

syllable to another.

## Stress on Some Root & Derived Words

ROOT WORD	DERIVED WORD
'alter	alte'ration
'beauty	beau'tician
'circulate	circu'lation
'drama	dra'matic
'engine	engi'neer
'family	fa'miliar
'hospital	hospi'tality
I'magine	imagi'nation
'Judgment	judge'mental
'labour	lab'orious

## Some Derived Words With Specific Suffixes

+ate/-ade/-ise...	+ian/-ical/-ogy	+ea/-ee/-eer...
ac'comodate	arti'ficial	adres'see
'advertise	gram'marian	ag'ree
'adequate	bi'ology	ap'pear
'alternate	a'bility	ch'eer
'analyse	aca'demic	engi'neer
'attitude	con'dition	psy'chosis
cer'tificate	scien'tific	sub'sere
'candidate	sympa'thetic	se'vere
con'gratulate	congratu'lation	I'dea

- Words ending in these suffixes: +ate / ade / ise, etc. are necessarily stressed on the third syllable from the end, or two syllables before the suffix. There are other suffixes in this class:

+yse / ize, ide, ile, ify, etc, ute, ude, etc.

- All of these suffixes cause stress to be assigned to the third syllable from the end, or two syllables before them.

- Words ending in these suffixes: +ian / ical / ogy etc. are necessarily stressed on the syllable immediately before. There are other suffixes in this class:

+ic, ical, ion, ity, ogy, omy, etc.

- All of these suffixes cause stress to be assigned to the syllable immediately before them.

- Words ending in these suffixes: +ea / ee / eer etc. are necessarily stressed on the suffix itself. There are other suffixes in this class:

+ean, ear, ere, esce, esque, ette, ier, itis, otis, etc.

- All of these suffixes cause stress to be assigned to themselves. If they are a suffix like +itis / otis, then the stress is given to their own first syllable.

- Finally, there are suffixes like +al, able, ary, ative, atory, cry, ible, ory, ous, utive, y, etc. These suffixes do not affect stress on root words in a particularly fixed manner.

# Phonetics

## SOME VOWEL SOUNDS

- Most sounds in all languages are produced with air going out flowing out of lungs through the glottis, pharynx and mouth.
- As speech air passes through them, these organs manipulate speech air.
- Glottis, which has vocal chords, can be wide open letting air pass freely; in that situation, however, there is no noise, as is the case when you whisper.
- Vowels are voiced sounds produced without any obstruction in the oral passage, in the mouth. This is how vowels are produced in all languages.
- Though mouth does not create any obstruction in the production of vowel sounds, it can still manipulate their length and type by changing the shape of lips, opening of jaws, and moving the tongue to different heights. All these things create various kinds of vowels.



'Pill' and 'pull' are different words because vowel in one is produced by stretching the blade or the front of the tongue towards the alolar teeth, whereas in 'pill' back of the tongue rises towards but does not touch the soft palate.

English has more vowel sounds than many other languages. Std. British English has 20 vowel sounds. American English has one or 2 fewer.

Like all other languages, English has also both long & short vowels.

Many long vowels in English make minimal pairs with short vowels.

Look at the foll. list of words made distinct from each other only by the length of the vowel:

Short Vowel	Long Vowel	Short V.	Long V.
bit	beat	fill	feel
bet	bait	fit	feet
bell	bale	fell	fail
bid	bide	get	gate
cell/sell	sale/sail	hit	heat
debt	date	let	late
did	deed		

Some English vowels are so long that the time they take equals almost to the production of two vowels, a long and a short one. Vowels of this kind are

called 'Diphthongs', that is two bursts of <sup>vowel</sup> sounds or extra long (XL) vowels.

We have diphthongs in English words like

'bite', 'bout', 'bait', 'boat' etc.

SHORT VOWELS	LONG VOWELS	DIPHTHONGS
live	leave	live
pull	pool	pile
fill	feel	file
mill	meal	mile
hit	heat	height
let		late
kit		kite
hill	heal	hole
lick	leak	like
pill	peel	pile
sit	seat	sight
tell		tale/tile

Short vowels are produced mostly with tongue in the neutral position.

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# Phonetics

## SOME CONSONANT SOUNDS

- Vowels are voiced sounds produced without obstruction.
- But almost all consonants are produced after some obstruction.
- # Only 'w' as in 'wet' and 'y' as in 'yet', and other words, are produced without obstruction and still called consonants.
- All other consonants in all other languages are produced only after some kind of obstruction somewhere in oral passage.
- Whereas all vowel sounds in all languages are voiced sounds, produced through the vibration of vocal chords, some consonants may also be voiceless, maybe produced when vocal chords are wide apart, air from the lungs flows through the glottis freely without vibrating the vocal chords.
- # for instance, 'h' in 'hip' and 's' in 'sip' represent voiceless sounds, but 'z' in 'zip' is a voiced sound.

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### Words with Voiceless Consonant

uncle  
banking  
content  
hanker  
intent  
simple  
temple

### Words with Voiced Consonants

angle  
banging  
content  
hanger  
indent  
symbol  
tumble

- Many students have difficulty producing sounds like 'v' in 'van' and 'w' in 'wan'.
- They are both voiced sounds, but 'v' as in 'van', 'even', 'move', etc. is pronounced from the lower lip coming close to upper teeth.
- 'w', as in 'wan' is produced with lips rounded like you do in the production of 'u' in 'put', 'pull', 'push' etc. In words like, 'quest', 'green', 'quick', you should round your lips before you begin pronouncing them. You will produce 'w' sound in these words quite correctly.

### Words with 'v'

van very river move  
vet every live prove  
vest liver give weave  
veil never love

### Words with 'w'

wan weary green quantity  
wet dwell quick query  
west quell question qualm  
wail quit quality