

**“I said she might consider a new haircut.”**

Say the sentences below aloud using the stress word marked in **bold.** Once you have spoken the sentence a few times, match the sentence version to the meaning below.

Exercise: Changing meaning through word stress

– **I** said she might consider a new haircut. It was my idea

– I **said** she might consider a new haircut. Don't you understand me?

– I said **she** might consider a new haircut. Not another person

– I said she **might** consider a new haircut. possibility

– I said she might **consider** a new haircut. She should think about it. it's a good idea

– I said she might consider a **new** haircut. Not just a haircut.

– I said she might consider a new **haircut**. Not something else.

– Not just a haircut.

– It's a possibility.

– It was my idea.

– Not something else.

– Don't you understand me?

– Not another person.

– She should think about it. it's a good idea.



**Exercise ‘Changing meaning through word stress’**

Write out a number of sentences. Read each of them stressing a different word each time you read them. Notice how the meaning changes depending on which word you stress. Don't be afraid to exaggerate the stress, in English we often use this device to add meaning to a sentence. It's very possible that when you think you are exaggerating, it will sound quite natural to native speakers.

*Write your sentences here*

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

Next Monday, we need to explain what we are doing now

(Source: http://esl.about.com/od/speakingadvanced)