**PRACTICE** -4

**Neutralization /Accent Rules**

**SYLLABLES**

A syllable is the smallest unit of uninterrupted sound and is usually a vowel with a consonant before and/or after it. It is a beat of sound energy. A word can be of one or more syllables. For example, ‘no’ has only one syllable, whereas ‘dimension’ has three syllables -di-men-sion.

English words can be divided into three types as follows:

Monosyllabic word (words consisting of only one syllable)

Disyllabic words (words consisting of only two syllables)

Tri syllabic word (words consisting of only three syllable)

Poly syllabic word (words consisting of more than three syllables)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mono syllabic words | Disyllabic words | Try syllabic words | Poly syllabic words |
| Cat | Forget | Cigarette | Participate |
| Dog | Remark | Beautiful | Application |
| Pen | Contain | Artistic | Electricity |
| Cream | Tailor | Character | Affiliation |
| Sound | Agreed | Absolute | Civilization |
| Boss | Maintain | Guarantee | Identification |
| ant | deceive | phonemic | autobiography |

**STRESS**

There are two kinds of syllables in a word, stressed and unstressed. Words with only one syllable could be stressed or unstressed depending upon the usage. Stressed syllables are higher in pitch, longer, and louder in tone. There are words where a change in stress can completely change the meaning of the word. The symbol (‘) before a syllable in a word indicates that, that particular syllable is to be stressed.

There are some specific rules regarding the stress pattern of a word but there are always some exceptions. We will discuss each of these rules separately.

**Rule 1.** In English, the syllable with / / is never stressed. Therefore, in disyllabic words, when the syllable with // not stressed, the other syllable has to be stressed

Examples: 55

attend /əˈtend/ about /əˈbaʊt/ open /ˈəʊ.pən/ enter across 

**Rule 2.** In disyllabic **nouns or adjectives**, the first syllable is stressed and in disyllabic verbs, the second syllable is stressed. Track 54

Examples:

Con’duct (V) ‘Conduct (N)

Per’fect(V) ‘ Perfect (N)

Re’cord(V) ‘Record (N)

Ob’ject (V) ‘Object (N)

Pro’ject(V) ‘project (N)

**Rule 3.** In disyllabic verbs, the second syllable is stressed but if the second syllable is with //, it is never stressed. Therefore, the first syllable has to be stressed. If the first syllable has // , then the second syllable with

// is stressed. 56

Sorrow /ˈsɒr.əʊ/ borrow /ˈbɒr.əʊ/ furrow  /ˈfʌr.əʊ/

Narrow /ˈnær.əʊ/ hullo /həˈləʊ/

Per’form  ‘cover  open

Refuse  attend  enter

Rule 4. If a compound word is a noun, a combination of a noun and another noun (noun + noun) or an adjective and a noun (adj. + noun), the stress will be on the first part.

Examples:

‘pinpoint 

‘note book

‘classroom

**Rule 5.** If a compound word is a verb or a combination of a preposition and a verb **(prep + verb**), the second part is stressed.

Examples:

Over’power  Under’rate  Outper’form 

**Rule 6.** Words ending with –ic, -ically, -ious, eous -ial, and –ially have stress on the syllable preceding the suffix.

Examples:

Dramati’zation me’chanic, basically, melodious, spontaneous, industrial, officially

**PRACTICE - 5**

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

A GD is a formal discussion involving 10-12 participants in a group. It is to assess

one's capability and knowledge to create logical arguments. An assessment is made of your

contributions to the discussion, comprehension of the main idea the rapport you strike,

patience, assertion, etc. In a GD, the group is given a topic or a situation, a few minutes to

think about it, and then asked to discuss it among themselves for 15-20 min.

**QUALITIES ASSESSED IN A GD:**

Candidates will be assessed in terms of

* clarity of thought, expression and aptness of language.
* >Ability to interact with others
* Emotional maturity and self-balance
* knowledge on the given topic,
* ability to listen with patience
* Ability to analyze and persuade others to see the problem or topic given from
* multiple perspectives.
* Ability to work in a group
* Ability to make your point apt in a team-based environment
* Ability to handle a conflict
* Openness and flexibility towards new ideas.

**WHILE COMMUNICATING IN A GD:**

* Be crisp to the point
* Be fact based
* Be an active listener
* Be appreciative and receptive to ideas of others
* Be open-minded
* Maintain good eye contact with all the group members
* Ability to expand the topic in it's different dimensions
* A GD provides a time limit of about 2-3 min.per participant to speak-in which he
* Ishe has to speak about 3-4 times. So you need to reflect the most in those 30-
* 40 sec slots
* be confident and cool while presenting your view point.

**The main parts of a G.D are:**

**1. Initiation :**

As soon as the members are seated, there should be mutual introductions.

Any one in the group can take the initiative to start the discussion.

You can initiate a G.D by following some techniques or strategies like

* using proverbs /sayings
* using definitions
* using anecdotes
* using quotes
* using shock statements

**2. Continuation:**

It means that you must continue contributing to the discussion in a meaningful way til

the end of the discussion.

Some techniques or strategies to continue a G.D are

**(a) Turn taking:**

**1.** Some useful expressions to take turns while participating in a discussion:

* It is my turn now to say something about ...
* Let us give him/her an opportunity to say something now.
* I think it is your turn to say something now.

**2.** If no opportunity is given, you can request the group to give you a hearing by

saying,

* May I draw your attention to one thing I wish to say ...?
* Will you permit me to say something now?

**(b) Referring to other's discussion:**

One must present his or her views with reference to what other members in the

group have said. For this, there is a need to either agree or disagree with what

someone has said and add your own points.

**Conclusion:**

* Anyone in the group can summarize what the group has discussed.
* While summarizing a discussion, one must keep in mind that summary should contain all the major points that were discussed.
* be brief and concise.
* don't add any new points.
* Some useful expressions for concluding a discussion:
* As we are running short of time, we better round up our discussion.
* Could you please wrap up the discussion for us?

**Some expressions to agree:**

* I partially/fully agree with what you have said.
* You are quite right.
* That's execlly what I was thinking
* Yes, that is exactly what I feel too

**Some expressions to disagree**

* I beg to differ or disagree with you.
* 1 am afraid I cannot accept your view.
* I think you are mistaken.
* I do not think so.
* You must be joking.
* But, that isn't right, I must say.
* I am not too sure I agree with you here.

**Do's of a G.D:**

* Understand, clearly and correctly, the topic given for discussion.
* Be smart, neatly dressed, cheerful and confident.
* Don't take strong views in the beginning itself; try and analyze the pros and cons of a
* situation.
* Be a patient listener and discuss various points of view.
* Be focused and show interest in what is going on.
* Look at the individual who is talking.
* Speak to the whole group maintaining eye contact.
* Keep the duration of your arguments short but relevant and interesting.
* Substantiate your views with suitable examples.
* Think and organize your ideas in a proper way.

**Don'ts of a G.D**

* >Don't ever make the mistake of addressing the coordinator.
* Don't be too loud ,or too soft and don't rush your words .
* Don't show any way that you are conscious of yourself and under any strain.
* Don't indulge in any unnecessary talk.
* Don't adopt a negative attitude that results in counter arguments.
* Don't feel that you are superior to others .
* Don't dominate or monopolise the discussion .

**PRACTICE - 6**

**DEBATE**

A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic between two groups or parties in which

opposing arguments are put forward and solutions are offered at the end of it. You can watch

several polítical debates, religious debates and debates related to economy on the television.

**A debate helps to develop:**

* Critical thinking skills
* Logical thinking skills
* Communication skills
* Problem solving skills
* Negotiation skills and
* Team Spirit

**Roles in a Debate:**

There are two groups, which participate in a debate - the one, which speaks in favour of the

resolution, and the other, which opposes the resolution. The group, which speaks in favour of

the topic, is called the affirmative group and the group that opposes the topic, is known as the

opposing group or negative group. The debate will be started and monitored by the Chairperson

or Speaker and will be evaluated by a group of adjudicators.

**4 Stages in a Debate:**

**Introduction:**

A debate starts with the introduction or proposal of a topic or a resolution. The chairperson

starts the debate and the two teams argue for and against the topic or a resolution. Each team

consists of 4-5 members who argue in favor of their statements.

**Argument:**

It is the discussion that takes place between the two groups. First, the affirmative group that is

in favour of the topic, defines the topic and puts forward its ideas. The other group, the opposition,

redefines and disagreeing with the resolution, opposes the ideas. This process continues until

the chairperson / adjudicator decides to close the debate. The last speakers of each group

summarise their ideas and support their group's standpoint.

**Conclusion:**

During the debate, the chairperson and adjudicators (a panel of judges - teachers or appointed

senior students) judge the performance of the teams and decide which group has presented

strongly. The two groups negotiate and come to a final understanding and solution. The panel of

judges cast votes to decide the winner of the debate and declare the winners.

**Various expressions used in a Debate:**

**Introductory Stage**

· Dear chairperson,adjudicators and friends,welcome to this debate.e The motion for today'sdebate is: . Our group has structuredproposition/opposition ourcase as follows:Discussion Stage· I, as the first speaker,will be talking about ..· Our second speaker,... , will elaborate onthe fact that And our third speaker, . Let me summarize our position

... , will do the rebuttal. in this debate.

**Conclusion Stage**

We think that we have convinced you ....

So / therefore /hence I would like to conclude that

Let me come to our first/second/ ... /next argument: [concise label of argument].

To summarise, we want to point out that

Our first/ ... argument is

**Some debating tips:**

1. Understand the topic properly

2. Identify the two possible sides of it

3. Build your arguments for each side