

The most important rules for English word stress

.Definition: Stress is an extra force used when pronouncing a particular word or syllable

A syllable is any of the units into which a word may be divided. It usually consists of a vowel sound. This vowel sound can be alone as in “A”, or can be preceded by a consonant sound as in “To”, or can be followed by a consonant sound as in “Eat”, or it can be between two consonant sounds or more as in “Take”, “Shock”, “Sleep”, etc. So, a syllable equals (=) a vowel sound (=) one vowel sound or a diphthong. For example, in the word “Sleep” we have one vowel sound /i:/, but in the word “Take” we’ve got the diphthong (two vowel sounds) /e/

The weakest vowel sound in the English language is /ə/, and this sound is never stressed. It is called Schwa

The Rules

.A word of one syllable has stress on the first letter. E.g. 'Go - 'Hot – 'Long – 'Teach .1

:A word of two syllables .2

a. A noun of two syllables has stress on the first syllable. N = '1 + 2 stress on 1

E.g. 'En/glish – 'Fa/ther – 'teach/er – 'Act/or – 'Pres/ent

./But in “Be/'lief” stress is on syllable two because the first contains /ə

b. An adjective of two syllables has stress on the first syllable. Adj. = '1 + 2 stress on 1.

.E.g. 'Hap/py – 'Sun/ny – 'Hot/ter – 'Ug/ly – 'Stu/pid

./But in “Cor/'rect” stress is on the second syllable because the first contains /ə

.c. An adverb or a preposition of two syllables has stress on the first syllable

.Adv. = '1 + 2 E.g. 'Un/der – 'O/ver – 'Ne/ver – 'Af/ter

But in “Be'low”, “Be'neath”, “A'bove”, “A'go” stress is on the second syllable because

./ the first contains /ə

A verb of two syllables has stress on the second syllable. V = 1 + '2

.E.g. Cor/'rect – Pre/'sent – Be/'lieve

But in “'La/bel”, “'O/pen” stress is on the first syllable because the second syllable

./contains /ə

(A compound noun = 'N1 + N2 takes stress on the first noun (N1 .3

.E.g. 'Lady-bird, 'Taxi-driver, 'School-bag, 'Silk-worm, 'Pencil-case, 'Suit-case

(.A compound noun = 'Adj. + N takes stress on the adjective (Adj .4

.E.g. 'Black-board, 'Green-house, 'Round-table, 'Black-smith, 'White-house

.(A compound adjective = Adj. + 'V(pp) takes stress on the verb (V (pp .5

.E.G. Well-'done, Well-'known, Old-'fashioned, Narrow-'minded

.(A compound verb = Preposition + 'V takes stress on the verb (V .6

.E.g. Under-'stand, Over-'do, Over-'flow, Under-'estimate

.A phrasal verb (V + 'Prep/or 'Adv) takes stress on the Prep/or Adv .7

.E.g. Sit 'down, Fly a'way, Stand 'up, Climb 'up, Run a'way, Go 'into

**A word that ends (finishes) with one of these five (5) endings takes stress on the .8
.second syllable from end**

(The endings are (-ic(s), -sion(s), -tion(s), -ive, -ant

.E.g. 'Graph/ic – 'Ma/gic – Me/'chan/ic – 'Pan/ic – 'Pub/lic

Vi/sion – Di/'vi/sion – Con/'clu/sion – Tel/e/'vi/sion or 'Tel/e/vi/sion'

.In/tro/'duc/tion – Si/tu/'a/tion – In/'ten/tion

(Ex/'pens/ive – Ef/'fect/ive – Com/'puls/ive (But : In/'quis/i/tive

.Im/'por/tant – Re/'sis/tant – As/'sis/tant

**A word that ends (finishes) with one of these thirteen (13) endings takes stress on .9
(.the third syllable from end. (Words of 3 syllables or more**

**,The endings are (-cy, -ty, -phy, - -gy, -al, -er, --ful, - less, -ous, -fy, -ible, -able, -ist
(...ness, -ize, etc-**

E.g. U/ni/'ver/si/ty, Sim/i/'lar/i/ty, Re/'al/i/ty

Phi/'los/o/phy, Pho/'tog/ra/phy

Ge/'ol/o/gy, Tech/'nol/o/gy, Bi/'ol/o/gy

Phys/i/cal, 'Man/u/al, Me/'chan/i/cal'

(Pho/'tog/ra/pher, Ki/'lo/me/ter, 'Car/pen/ter (But: Com/'put/er)(2nd

(Beau/ti/ful, 'Plen/ti/ful (But: Re/'spect/ful, De/'light/ful) (2nd'

,Col/our/less'

(Dan/ger/ous, 'Mar/vel/lous (But: Cou/'ra/geous, De/'li/cious) (2nd'

Beau/ti/fy, 'Sim/pli/fy, 'Rec/ti/fy, 'Fal/si/fy'

Hor/ri/ble, 'Cre/di/ble, In/'cre/di/ble'

Re/'spect/a/ble, 'Ca/pa/ble, De/'pend/a/ble

Jour/nal/ist, 'Sci/en/tist, 'Phys/is/ist, Bi/'o/log/ist'

Help/less/ness, 'Care/less/ness, 'Clev/er/ness'

(/Civ/i/lize, 'So/siol/ize, 'Ang/li/cize. But: 'Gen/e/ra/lize (2 and 3 contain /ə')

« It is never late to learn »

"A word a day keeps ignorance away"

A sound or a letter, learning is better"

"Say your word or write you letter

,Utter it now, or utter it then"

"You'll put it down using your own Pen

تم نشر هذا الملف بواسطة قرص **تجربتي** مع الباكالوريا

tajribatybac@gmail.com

facebook.com/tajribaty

jjel.tk/bac