

**STRESS OF THE
SYLLABLES WITHIN THE
WORDS AND STRESS OF
THE WORDS WITHIN THE
SENTENCES**

Spoken language:

Pronunciation is ability to use correctly
INTONATION, STRESS and PHONOLOGY.

- Intonation is the way of saying the word rather than what you are actually saying.
- Stress refers to the emphasis which we place on the specific syllable of the word or whole word in the sentence.
- Phonology (the sound of the language) is dealing with sound of the words and its organization within the sentence.

Syllable is a unit of the word, also called “the building bricks of the word”.

So, one or more syllables are forming the word.

For example, we have **one-syllable words** like DOG, CAT, RED, CUT, HOT, SEE, TIE, etc. **Two-syllable words** like KIT-TEN, MOUN-TAIN, AF-TER, AP-PLE, BE-HIND, etc. **Three-syllable words** like WON-DER-FUL, YES-TER-DAY, AL-PHA-BET, VIC-TO-RY, etc.

Those syllables are used to put **STRESS** on them.

Remember, with words made of more than 4 syllables - MORE THAN ONE SYLLABLE CAN BE STRESSED. It is important to pay attention while pronouncing those words!

Stress can come on any syllable in the word or on any word in the sentence, depending on what we want to emphasise.

Now, take a look at these words again, say them aloud and try to understand which syllable is stressed.

PHO-**TO**-GRAPHY, **HAP**-PY, BE-**HIND**, VO-**CABU**-LARY,
REVE-**LA**-TION, **WON**-DER-FUL, **TAB**-LE, **CLEV**-ER,
PHOTO-GRAPH, UNDER-**STAND**, CIG-AR-**ETTE**

HINT : we are stressing the **VOWEL** not consonant and stressed syllable is pronounced LONGER, MORE AUDIBLE and HIGHER ON THE MUSICAL PITCH.

Now, who was right?

In English there are no specific rules regarding stress pattern.

There are some words with fixed stress pattern like CIG-AR-ETTE, PRO-GRAMME, LES-SON, but others depend on your origins.

Regarding nouns and adjectives made of two syllables mostly stress is on first syllable - PRES-ENT, EX-PORT, CHI-NA, TA-BLE, etc.

Verbs made of two syllables, stress is on second syllable - to PRE-SENT, to EX-PORT, to DE-CIDE, to BE-GIN, etc.

Generally, when we are learning a new word we should learn its stress as well because there are too many exceptions.

Stress in the sentence is also so important.

Stressed words in the sentence are CONTENT WORDS (main verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs and negative auxiliaries) and unstressed words are STRUCTURE WORDS (pronouns, prepositions, articles, auxiliary verbs and conjunctions).

Look at this sentence:

Can you **DRAW** **PORTRAIT** of him and **SELL** to the **GALLERY**?

So, the CONTENT WORDS carry the meaning within the sentence and STRUCTURE WORDS help the sentence to be grammatically correct!

Also we can change the stressed word within the sentence depending on what information we want to confirm.

Look at the sentence:

Did you go to the football match by car yesterday?

YOU - to confirm WHO went there.

FOOTBALL - to confirm to WHAT KIND of match somebody went (baseball, handball...?)

CAR - to confirm HOW did you go there (by bus, train, plane...?)

YESTERDAY - to confirm WHEN (today, yesterday, day before yesterday, tomorrow...)

Why is important to use stress correctly in spoken language?

HETERONYMS also known as *HETEROPHONES* are words which are written the same way but PRONOUNCED DIFFERENTLY with different meaning.

These are some examples of heteronyms:

- DES-ert (noun) - a large area covered by sand (Sahara Desert).
- des-ERT (verb) - to leave somebody without help or support.
- pro-DUCE (verb) - to make things to be sold.
- PRO-duce (noun) - the things that have been made or grown.
- PRO-ject (noun) - a planned piece of work that is designed to find information about something.
- pro-JECT (verb) - to plan an activity for a time in the future.

....and many more.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!! 😊