

Word Stress

What is stress?

- volume
- pitch
- length
- vowel quality

Levels of stress

- strongly stressed (primary)
- lightly stressed (secondary)
- unstressed (weak or no)

e.g. **Jàpanése** **Jàpanése**
 JAPanESE /ˌdʒæpəˈniːz/

Compare stress patterns:

French **é**conomique **o**rganisation
English **e**conomic **o**rganization

Where is the stress?

2-SYLLABLE WORDS-*usually on the first syllable*

- German origin:

MOTHer WATer WISdom

- Latin origin-tendency to move stress to 1st syllable:

MUSic GRAMmar REASON

NOTE: Even stronger tendency in British English

BAL•let/bal•LET GAR•age/ga•RAGE

BUT:

conTAIN beLIEF dePEND WHY?

PREFIXES

- German origin:

a-, be-, for-, fore-, mis-, out-, over-, un-, under-, up-, with-

Verbs-stressed on base/root

unTIE outRUN overDO underSTAND

Nouns-stressed on prefix

FOREsight OUTcome Overdose UNDerwear

Compare:

There was an Overload
of electricity on the
circuit.

Don't overLOAD
the circuit!

•Linate origin

(ad-, com-, de-, dis-, ex-, en-, in-, ob-,
per-, pre-, pro-, re-, sub-, sur-)

verb

(stress on base)

comPLAIN

exTEND

disPLAY

proTECT

reTURN

noun

(also often on base)

comPLAINT

exTENSion

disPLAY

proTECTion

reTURN

Part-of-speech alternations:

2-syllable noun/verb pairs (p. 264):

NOUN

PROject

RECord

INcrease

CONflict

OBject

VERB

proJECT

reCORD

inCREASE

conFLICT

obJECT

-ate endings

NOUN/ADJ.

graduate

separate

fortunate

VERB

graduate

separate

educate

SUFFIXES

1. no effect on stress placement;
stress remains on base/root

-hood NEIGHborhood

-ship reLAtionship

-ful WONderful

-er/or EDucator

-dom KINGdom

-ness apPROpriateness

-able underSTANDable

2. suffix receives the stress

-aire
questionNAIRE
(millionaire)

-ee
granTEE

-eer
pioNEER

-ese
LebaNESE

-esque
picturESQUE

-ique
uNIQUE

-eur
chauf**FEUR**

-oon
car**TOON**

-ette
cas**SETTE**
(cigarette)

-et
bou**QUET**

3. Suffix causes the stress to move to the syllable preceding it

-eous **COURage** cou**RA**geous

-graphy **TELEgraph** te**LE**Graphy

-ial **SEquence** se**QUEN**tial

-ian **MAGic** ma**GIC**ian

-ic **PERiod** peri**OD**ic

-ical **biOLogy** bio**LOG**ical

-ious **MYStery** my**STER**ious

-ity **PUBlic** pu**BLIC**ity

-ion **ORganize** organi**ZAT**ion