

Overview:

- Definition and role of stress in English language.
 - Nature of stress
 - Presentation of stressed syllables
 - Production and perception of stressed syllables
 - What makes a syllable prominent
- 1-loudness2-length3-pitch4-quality

- Types of stress
- Which words are stressed and which are not
- Levels of stress
- Placement of stress levels within the word
- Placement of stress within the sentence
- Stress in Urdu
- Strong and weak syllables
- Stress in two syllable words
- Stress in three syllable words
- conclusion

Introduction

- Stress is an important feature of English pronunciation and to become a powerful communicator of English one needs proficiency while using different stress patterns in his communication.
- In the field of trade and commerce, travel and tourism, banking, administration, aviation and above all education, English has become necessary for everyday affairs of modern world,

- The desire to learn English is not very new and it is constantly growing by the day.
- It is so because the spoken English has assumed a far greater role than it did ever before.
- T.v and telephone has become an important means of business and non business transaction.
- Many more people go on international tours and participate in international seminars and conferences.
- Telephone interviews for selection of lucrative posts also need listening and spoken proficiency.

What is Stress?

- Stress is the degree of force with which a syllable or a word is uttered.
- It is also defined as the degree of prominence a syllable has.
- Words with more than one syllables have a stressed syllable. In /teibl/ first syllable is prominent.
- In committee and recommend second syllable is stressed.

What is Word Stress?

- **What is Word Stress?**
- In English, we do not say each syllable with the same force or strength. In one word, we accentuate ONE syllable. We say **one** syllable very **loudly** (big, strong, important) and **all the other syllables** very **quietly**.

Activity

- Let's take 3 words: **photograph**, **photographer** and **photographic**
- Do they sound the same when spoken?
- No. Because we accentuate (stress) ONE syllable in each word. And it is not always the same syllable. So the **shape** of each word is different.

• PHO TO GRAPH



3

#1

• PHO TO GRAPHER



4

#2

• PHO TO GRAPH IC



4

#3

- This happens in ALL words with 2 or more syllables:
TEACHer, JaPAN, CHINa, aBOVE, converSAtion, INteresting, imPORtant, deMAND, etCETera, etCETera, etCETera
- The syllables that are not stressed are **weak** or **small** or **quiet**. Native speakers of English listen for the STRESSED syllables, not the weak syllables. If you use word stress in your speech, you will instantly and automatically improve your pronunciation **and your comprehension**.
- Try to hear the stress in individual words each time you listen to English - on the radio, or in films for example. Your first step is to HEAR and recognise it. After that, you can USE it!
- There are two very important rules about word stress:
- **One word, one stress.** (One word cannot have two stresses. So if you hear two stresses, you have heard two words, not one word.)
- **The stress is always on a vowel.**

Why stress is crucial in English

- Stress is crucial in English pronunciation. It can be called a grammatical device in English.
- A part of the meanings of a word depends on stress. it serves to mark the function of words in spoken English.

Why is Word Stress Important?

- **Why is Word Stress Important?**
- Word stress is not used in all languages. Some languages, Japanese or French for example, pronounce each syllable with equal emphasis.
- Other languages, English for example, use word stress.
- Word stress is not an optional extra that you can add to the English language if you want. It is **part of the language!** English speakers use word stress to communicate rapidly and accurately, even in difficult conditions. If, for example, you do not hear a word clearly, you can still understand the word because of the position of the stress.

Activity

- Think again about the two words **photograph** and **photographer**. Now imagine that you are speaking to somebody by telephone over a very bad line. You cannot hear clearly. In fact, you hear only the first two syllables of one of these words, **photo**
 - ... Which word is it, photograph or photographer?
-
- Of course, with word stress you will know immediately which word it is because in reality you will hear either PHOto... or phoTO... So without hearing the whole word, you probably know what the word is (PHOto...graph or phoTO...grapher). It's magic! (Of course, you also have the 'context' of your conversation to help you.)

- This is a simple example of how word stress helps us understand English. There are many, many other examples, because we use word stress all the time, without thinking about it.

Where do I Put Word Stress?

- There are some [rules](#) about which syllable to stress. But...the rules are rather complicated! Probably the best way to learn is from experience. Listen carefully to spoken English and try to develop a feeling for the "music" of the language.
- When you learn a new word, you should also learn its stress pattern. If you keep a vocabulary book, make a note to show which syllable is stressed.

If you do not know then?

- If you do not know, you can look in a dictionary. All dictionaries give the phonetic spelling of a word. This is where they show which syllable is stressed, usually with an apostrophe (') just **before** or just **after** the stressed syllable. (The notes at the front of the dictionary will explain the system used.) Look at (and listen to) this example for the word **plastic**. There are 2 syllables. Syllable #1 is stressed.
- Example [PLAS](#) TIC

Levels of stress

- 1-primary level
- 2-secondary level
- 3-tertiary level (unnecessary degree of complexity)

Types of stress

- **1-word stress** :It shows that what syllable in a word is stressed e.g. useful, is stressed on the first syllable, advantageous has a primary stress on first and secondary stress on third syllable.
- **2-Sentence stress**: It shows what words in a sentence are stressed

Why students are weak in using stress

- Most of our students learn English grammar from books.
- That's why their sense of stress remains undeveloped.
- this should be kept in mind that English words are pronounced with one dominant syllable while the other syllables tend to get squashed and reduced.

Clipper la diapositive

Nature of stress

- Nature of stress is simple enough that everyone can understand that words like father, open, camera, have first syllables as stressed.
- In potato, apartment, relation middle syllable is stressed, whereas in about receive and perhaps final syllable is stressed.

Presentation of stressed syllables

- A stressed syllable is denoted by placing a vertical line (') high up just before the stressed syllable. receive will be transcribed as /ri'si:v/
- Relation, potato, about camera are some examples to show stress in transcription.

Production and perception of stressed syllables

- Production of the stressed or unstressed syllables depends mainly on the speaker.
- While producing stressed syllables muscles that are used to expel the air from the lungs are often more active.
- From perceptual point of view all stressed syllables have a common characteristic of prominence.

What makes a syllable prominent?

- **1-Loudness** Many people seem to feel that stressed syllables are louder than unstressed. Loudness is a component of prominence. take example of a non sense word,(ba:ba:ba:ba)
- **2-Length**: the length of a syllable has an important part to play in prominence. If one syllable is made longer, it will be heard as stressed.
- **3-Pitch**:Every voiced syllable is said on some high pitch it will produce an effect of prominence.
- **4-quality**:A syllable will become prominent if it contains a vowel,different in quality. we can look on stressed syllables as occurring against a background of weak syllables,l,u,ə.

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- Examples
- Crazy /'kreizi/
- Book /'buk/
- Near /'niə/

Rules of word stress

- Stress on words in English is not tied to any particular syllable for the entire vocabulary. Stress pattern of the each word in English has to be learnt individually. There are certain groups of words which follow some regular stress pattern that allow so few exceptions that they may be regarded as the rules of word stress. These rules are based on the kinds of prefixes and suffixes or word endings.

Levels of stress.

- Linguistics are agree that there are at least three levels of stress in English -- three levels of prominence that a syllable can have against its surroundings. Those levels are often called, primary (the most prominent), secondary (the second most prominent), and tertiary -- or "weak" (the least prominent).

Levels of stress.

- 1-primary level

Primary stress is represented with a high mark (').

- 2-secondary level

Secondary stress with a low mark(,□)

- 3-tertiary level

Tertiary stress with no mark.

Levels of stress.

- Some experts think that four levels can be identified in English, but that is a different problem.
- Here are two words that illustrate primary, secondary, and tertiary stress:
- --necessarily
--partnership
- In *necessarily* (ne-cess-ar-i-ly), primary stress is on the "ar" syllable; secondary stress is on the "ne" syllable, and tertiary stress is on the others.

Levels of stress.

- In *partnership* (part-ner-ship), primary stress is on the "part" syllable, secondary stress is on the "ship" syllable, and tertiary stress is on the "ner" syllable.
- However this is worth noting that unstressed syllables containing schwa, i, u, or a syllabic consonant will sound less prominent.

Further Examples

word	Syllable having primary stress	Syllable having secondary stress
Examination	nei	zæ
Possibility	bi	Pə
Rewind	wai	ri:
Revisit	vi	ri:
Inability	bi	in

Functional stress

- There are a number of two syllable words which function both as noun or adjective and verbs.
- For example conduct, convict etc.
- These words have stress on first syllable when they are used as noun or adjective.
- and stress occurs on the second syllable when they are used as verbs.

Examples

- 1-Her 'conduct is good. (noun)
- She con'ducts herself well. (verb)
- 2-What is our 'import policy. (adjective)
- We im'port this item from USA (verb)
- 3-He was 'present here yesterday . (adjective)
- Please pre'sent your case . (verb)
- 4-Tell me the 'object of your case. (noun)
- I ob'ject to your ideas. (verb)
- 5-What are your 'subjects of study? (noun)
- He was sub'jected to torture. (verb)

Types of English stress

- ☐ **Word Stress** (within word)
- ☐ **Sentence Stress** (within sentence)

Placement of stress in English

- “In order to decide on stress placement, it is necessary to mark some or all of the following information
- Whether the word is morphologically simple or complex.
- The grammatical category to which the word belongs (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc).
- The number of syllables in the word and the phonological structure.

Which words are stressed and which are not

Stressed words	Unstressed words
Nouns	Pronouns
Demonstrative+interrogative pronouns	Prepositions
Main verbs	Conjunctions
Adjectives	Helping verbs
adverbs	

Word Stress:

- **Words can be classified as:**
 - **Simple Words**
 - **Compound Words**
 - **Complex Words**

Word Stress:

- English word stress is not always on the first syllable. Here are some examples of stress in different syllables of the word:
- **comPUter LANguages pronunCIAtion.**
- Sometimes you can predict the stress placement because of the type of word or the ending you put on it.

Stress in simple words:

Predictable rules in many English words

- **Verbs**
- Stress the final syllable if heavy
- For example o.'bey, a.'tone,
- Stress the penultimate if light
- 'ta lly, 'hu.rry
- -

Nouns

- if the syllable preceding the final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong, or it ends with more one consonant, the middle syllable will be stressed, e.g.
 - mi'mosa di'saster
- - if the final syllable contains a short vowel and the middle syllable contains a short vowel and ends with not more than one consonant, both final and middle syllables are unstressed and the first syllable is stressed. e.g. 'quantity , 'cinema

Adverbs, adjectives,

- -Most adjectives and adverbs seems to behave like verbs and have stress in the first syllable. e. g 'lovely 'even , 'willing, 'honest , 'perfect

Stress in complex words

- A complex word consists of two or more grammatical units, e.g. carefully and careless.
- "Complex words are of two major types: word made from a basic stem word with the addition of an affix, and compound words, which are made of two independent English words, e.g. ice-cream, armchair

Affixes effects on word stress

- Affixes have three possible effects on word stress.
- the affix itself receives the primary stress.
- e.g. 'semicircle , person 'ality
- the word is stressed just if the affix was not there .
- e.g. un 'pleasant , 'marketing
- the stress remains on the stem, not the affix, but is shifted to a different syllable.
- e.g. magn 'netic.

Stress in compound words

- Compound words are characterized by the probability to divide them into two words , both of which can exist independently as English words.
- The stress in compound words mainly fall on the first syllable.
- e.g. 'type writer , 'tea cup

Sentence/Phrase Stress

❖ Two Groups of WORDS

- Content Words (Stressed/Unstressed)
- e.g. Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Interjections
- Structural Words (Strong/weak forms)
- e.g. Articles, Pronouns, Prepositions, Helping Verbs

Examples

- Did you buy computer?
- Did you BUY a comPUter?
- Yes, but the computer is very expensive.
- YES, but the computer is very exPENsive.

Some Other Rules for Phrase stress

- 1. Content words are stressed:
 - I had **Long**, **Strai**ght **HAir** for the **MO**st of my **LI**fe.
 - A simple hairstyle makes life easier.
 - A **SI**mple **HAir**style **MA**kes Life **EAS**ier.

Rules for Phrase stress

- 2. When words are grouped into meaningful phrases (thought group), there is usually one word that receives the most stress. The word is generally final content word:
 - This is em**BA**rrasing . I admit the hairstyle was **BAD**, Around twelve or thir**TEEN**, I cut my hair **SHO**rt. I don't know, **WHY**?
 - Find stress
 - At this time, I think Princess Diana who influenced fashion. Perhaps that was a sorry attempt.

Rules for Phrase stress

- 3. Instead of stressing each word, the native speakers choose alternative words to make natural flow and rhythm.
 - Did you have many PHOtos of yourSElf as CHIlD.
 - I'll BEt there are SOme you don't LIke to SHOW to PEOple.
 - Find Stress:
 - As a little girl, I often wore pigtails.
 - Around age of eight or nine, my hair looked rather wild.

Rules for Phrase stress

- 4. Native speakers break pattern when necessary to emphasize CERTAIN words to contrast two ideas or clear misunderstanding:
 - SOme People take a SHOrt amount of time to style their hair. OTHers take LONG time.
 - Find stress:
 - As a young girl, I experienced with hairstyle. Now I'm older.
 - I'll share a few more photos, but nothing that is too embarrassing.

Stress in connected speech

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| • Citation form | | • Connected speech form |
| | | • /ə/ |
| • a | /eə/ | • /əm/ |
| • Am | /əm/ | • /ənd/, /ən/, /nəd/ , |
| • And | /ənd/ | /nə/ |
| • Can | /kən/ | • /kən/ |
| • He | /hi:/ | • /hə/, /ə/, /hə/, /ə/ |
| • Him | /həm/ | • /ə ə/ |
| • The | /ə ə ə/ | • /ə ə/, /ə ə/, /ə ə/ |

Stress in connected speech

- ☐ **Structural Words** behave differently
- ☐ Citation form in isolation is different
- ☐ Usage in connected speech is different.
- ☐ These words are not stressed or unstressed rather they have:
- ☐ Strong forms
- ☐ Weak forms

Rules for weak form

- ❖ When the word is stressed because of emphasis, the strong form is compulsory. e.g.
 - I did not say apples or pears, I said apples **and** pears. (ʌnd not ənd)
- ❖ When prepositions and auxiliary verbs appear in grammatical structure, strong form will be used e.g. That's the picture I was looking **at**. (ət not ʌt)

Rules for weak form

- ❖ As helping verbs, in weak form and as main verbs in strong form e.g.
 - You **have** seen them (həv or ʌv)
 - You **have** to go. (həv not hʌv)
- ❖ Some words like do, the, to and you are used in strong form before word starting with consonant.
- ❖ Contracted negative form of auxiliary verb is used in weak form. e.g.
 - Can't as /kʌnt/

Rules for weak form

- ❖ Possessive pronouns such as yours, his or hers are never used in weak form.
- ❖ Grammatical words of one syllables are always used in weak form e.g. on as /ɒn/, off as /ɒf/, up as /ʌp/ and so on.

Write transcription

☐ When I think of my years at university, one of the things I regret is the fact that I did not take some subjects seriously and I only did enough work to scrape by.

/wen a

Various stress patterns

- Stress in English words varies from word to word. In some words stress falls on first syllable, while in other words it falls on the second third or fourth syllable.

Words stressed on first syllable

Two syllable words	Three syllable words	Longer words
'husband	'Literature	'aristocrat
'stomach	'Character	'benefactor
'dozen	'Advertise	'comprehension
'stupid	'Industry	'melancholy
'splendid	'Atmosphere	'pomegranate

Words stressed on second syllable

Two syllable words	Three syllable words	Longer words
nar'rate	ap'pendix	par'ticipant
bal'loon	ef'ficient	ri'diculous
be'gin	de'velop	re'sponsible
draw'ee	sa'liva	ap'preciate
ru'pee	an'tenna	rhi'noceros

Words stressed on third syllable

Three syllable words	Four syllable words	Five syllable words
garan'tee	appl'ication	irre'proachabl e
ciga'rette	Opp'osition	Irre'sponsible
engi'neer	appa'ratus	satis'factory
corre'spond	corre'sponden ce	irre'pressible
		elec'tricity

Words stressed on the fourth syllable

dedica'tee	Civili'zation
Exami'nation	mechani'zation
Partici'pation	inferi'ority

Rules for placement of stress

- In spite of having some exceptions there are some rules.
- 1-Whether word is morphologically simple or complex (containing one or more affixes) or of being a compound word.
- 2-What the grammatical category of the word is. (noun, verb ,adjectives)
- 3-number of the syllables.
- 4-Phonological structure of the syllables.

Strong and weak syllables

- Two basic categories of syllables
- 1-strong syllables
- 2-weak syllables
- Strong syllable: A strong syllable has a rhyme which either has a syllable peak which is a long vowel or diphthong or a vowel followed by a coda (one or more consonants). For example die, heart, bat.

Weak syllables

- Weak syllable has a syllable peak which is a short vowel and no coda unless the syllable peak is schwa. For example re in reduce, be in herbicide, pen in open
- One important thing is that only strong syllables can be stressed. Weak syllables are always unstressed.

Stress in two syllable words

- In two syllable words either the first or the second syllable will be stressed not the both.
- 1-verb:
 - a: If the second syllable of the verb is a strong then this second syllable will be stressed. For example apply, arrive, assist, attract.
 - b: If the final syllable is weak then first syllable is stressed. For example enter, envy, open, equal.

- 4-Adverbs and prepositions:
- Adverbs and prepositions seem to behave like verbs and adjectives.

- 2-Adjectives:
- Same rule will be applied for two syllable adjectives also. For example, lovely, divine, even, correct, hollow, alive.
- 3-Nouns: Nouns require a different rule. If the second syllable contains a short vowel then stress will usually come on the first syllable otherwise it will be on the second syllable. For example money, design, product, larynx, balloon.

- 4-Adverbs and prepositions:
- Adverbs and prepositions seem to behave like verbs and adjectives.

Three syllable words:

1-verbs:

- a-In verbs if the final syllable is strong it will be stressed
e.g. entertain, resurrect.
- b-If the last syllable is weak then it will be unstressed
and stress will be placed on the preceding syllable if
that syllable is strong. For example encounter,
determine.
- C-If both the second and third syllables are weak then
the stress falls on the initial syllable e.g. parody.

2-Nouns+3-Adjectives(same rules of stress)

- a-If the final syllable is weak or ends with əu sound
then it is unstressed.
- b-If the syllable preceding this final syllable is strong
then the middle syllable will be
stressed,potato,disaster synopsis.
- C-If the second and third syllables are both weak
then the first syllable is stressed like
quantity,emperor,cinema,custody.

Conclusion

- English pronunciation depends on stress to a great
deal. In order to become a powerful communicator
of English we must learn all the rules of stress
mentioned earlier. English is a language that
borrowed words from 8000 languages of the world.
All rules regarding the stress patterns of these
languages are impossible to learn however if we
learn some basic rules we can improve a lot. So
learning of stress leads us to better communication.

Questions

- What is stress?
- How is a stressed syllable marked in transcription?
- Which are the factors to make a syllable stressed?
- How many types of stress are there?
- Which words are stressed?
- Which words are unstressed?