

Kevin's Lesson 7 Intonation & Expressions

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9A

Syllable Stress Rules

Always True

1. Pronounce the stressed syllable slower and louder
2. One syllable words have no stress
3. Multiple syllable words always have a stressed syllable.
4. There may be exceptions to the following rules.

Two Syllable Words

5. **NOUNS** normally have first syllable stress. CHI-na, WA-ter, TA-ble
6. **ADJECTIVES** normally have first syllable stress. HAPpy, HELPful, NAtive
7. **VERBS / PREPOSITIONS** normally have second syllable stress. deCIDE, beGIN, reVIEW, aBOVE

Multi-Syllable Words (with a suffix)

8. suffix: ade, ee, eer, ese, que, ette, oon ... stress is on the suffix.
lemonADE, guaranTEE, JapanESE
9. suffix: er, ly...stress is on the first syllable. MANager, REGularly
10. suffix: able, ial, cian, ery, ian, ble, ic, ion, ia, ient, ious, ish, sis ... stress is before the suffix syllable
muSICian, mysTERious, eduCation
11. suffix: cy, ty, phy, gy, al, ate ... the stress is two syllables before the suffix syllable
deMOcracy, geOGraphy
12. Verbs ending in 'ate' have the stress on the first syllable.
Eliminate, FLUCtuate, Alienate

13. Numbers are often misunderstood. Word stress is extremely important. thirTEEN/ THIRty, fourTEEN / FORTy
14. Compound **NOUNS** normally have the stress on the first word.
NOTEbook, AIRport, CLASSroom
15. Compound **VERBS & ADJECTIVES** normally have the stress on the second word.
underSTAND, upGRADE, easyGOING
16. When two vowels are together with different sounds and syllables, normally both have clear sounds with no schwa and the second vowel's syllable is stressed.
pronunciAtion, reACtion, creAtive



Strong Form and Weak Form

If you want to speak fluently, you must know how to use strong and weak forms.

Strong Form:

I will walk to the store today.

I /wɪl/ /wɒk/ /tuː/ /ðə/ /stɔːr/ /tə deɪ/

Weak Form:

I will walk to the store today.

I'll /wɒk/ /tə/ /ðə/ /stɔːr/ /tə deɪ/.

noun	STRONG No Schwa	WEAK Schwa	verb	STRONG No Schwa	WEAK Schwa
present	PRE-sent	PRE- s[ə]nt	present	pre-SENT	pr[ə]-SENT
record	RE-cord	RE-c[ə]rd	record	re-CORD	r[ə]-CORD
comments	COM-ment	COM-m[ə]nt	commence	com-MENCE	c[ə]m-MENCE
rebel	RE-bel	RE-b[ə]	rebel	re-BEL	r[ə]- BEL
object	OB-ject	OB-j[ə]ct	object	ob-JECT	[ə]b-JECT
product	PROD-uct	PROD-[ə]ct	produce	pro-DUCE	pr[ə] - DUCE
project	PRO-ject	PRO-j[ə]ct	project	pro-JECT	pr[ə] - JECT
conflict	CON-flict	CON-fl[ə]ct	conflict	con-FLICT	c[ə]n-FLICT
suspect	SUS-pect	SUS-p[ə]ct	suspect	sus-PECT	s[ə]s-PECT
permit	PER-mit	PER-m[ə]t	permit	per-MIT	p[ə]r-MIT



Exercises

EXERCISE # 9-1

Practice saying the words in the chart using the schwa

1. I presented my mother a present for her birthday
2. The music was recorded on a record.
3. The meeting will commence with comments from the boss.
4. The lawyer objected to the object found on the crime scene.
5. We will project how much the project will cost.
6. They will not permit you to do that without a permit.
7. How do you pronounce those pronouns?
8. The committee watches comedies.

EXERCISE # 9-2

Mark the unstressed vowel sounds which can change to the schwa

1. attend
2. travel
3. allow
4. teacher
5. exchange
6. pilot
7. attach
8. advantage
9. banana
10. advantageous

For additional resources and updated information:

www.webactiveenglish.com

www.speakenglishgroup.com

www.speakenglishbusiness.com

www.facebook.com/groups/199163690652022/