

Word stress

A. Stress of two-syllable words.

1) Two-syllable words which do not begin with prefixes take the stress on the second syllables because the first syllables contain short vowels.

Eg: canal, finance, police, mature, ...

Practice 1:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. sugar B. typical C. complain D. topic
2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. feather B. mature C. leather D. chorus
3. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. parade B. compassion C. resemble D. beautiful
4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. breather B. orchestra C. pursuit D. recruit

2) Two-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as: a-, ab-, abs-, ad-, ac-, co-, col-, con-, cor-, be-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: aboard, because, forbid, without, ...

Practice 2:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. ceremony B. compose C. calculate D. caravan
2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. complete B. company C. comment D. comical
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. comedy B. comfortable C. command D. company
4. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. commentary B. legal C. model D. alert
5. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. voluntary B. necessary C. compulsory D. stationary

3) Two-syllable words take the stress on the first syllables when these first syllables are not prefixes.

Eg: always, candy, handsome, labour, ...

Practice 3:

1. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?
A. practice B. question C. ago D. orange
2. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?
A. title B. destiny C. thorough D. advice
3. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. journal B. infernal C. internal D. fraternal
4. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. hearsay B. endear C. rehearse D. poetic
5. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. brochure B. conscious C. dynamic D. hypocrite

4) Two-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as : sur-, sus-, tran-, trans-, un-, with-, ... take the stress on the second syllable.

Eg: surround, suspend, transfer, unseen, ...

Practice 4:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. famous B. curious C. suspicious D. numerous
2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. transfer B. cushion C. stumble D. trifle
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. nature B. surround C. gravity D. muscle
4. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. withstand B. suspend C. service D. transcribe
5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. without B. transport C. transfer D. office

5) Two-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as: co-, col-, con-, cor-, de-, dis-, e-, ef-, ex-, em-, en-, im-, in-, for-, fore-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: correct, expect, forecast, invite, ...

Practice 5:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. tribute B. distress C. magistrate D. envelope
2. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. divine B. align C. device D. destiny
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. mission B. scenic C. ascent D. vicious

4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?

- A. foresee B. seizure C. pleasure D. later

5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. disguise B. creature C. embed D. forget

6) Two-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as : ob-, op-, out-, pre-, pro-, re-, sub-, sup-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: oppose, outbit, prepare, project, ...

Practice 6:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. cyclinder B. recycle C. bicycle D. mystery

2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. register B. regular C. request D. reference

3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. naughty B. laughter C. slaughteer D. pronounce

4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?

- A. obscure B. trial C. reform D. suppose

5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. wastage B. prepare C. oppose D. protect

7) Two-syllable words (chiefly nouns and adjectives) which begin with prefixes take the stress on the prefixes because these prefixes contain i+consonant, o+consonant, ot strong and long vowels.

Eg: conflict, absence, essay, product, ...

Practice 7:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. surgeon B. surprise C. surplus D. surface

2. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. promise B. perform C. advice D. rewrite

3. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. protest B. conclude C. product D. conduct

4. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?

- A. ancient B. submit C. physics D. progress

5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. record (v) B. angel C. rival D. minor

B. Three-syllable words:

1) Three-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as: a-, ab-, abs-, ad-, ac-, ag-, ar-, be-, co-, col-, com-, con-, cor-, de-, dis-, e-, ef-, ex-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: abnormal, addictive, collector, expensive, ...

Practice 1:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. defensive B. cyclinder C. calculate D. caravan

2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. envelope B. magistrate C. behaviour D. bicycle

3. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. connective B. connector C. achievement D. mystery

4. Which word is not stressed on the third syllable?

- A. permanent B. personal C. understood D. different

5. Which word is stressed on the third syllable?

- A. underlined B. syllable C. personal D. different

2) Three-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as : em-, en-, im-, in-, for-, fore-, ir-, ob-, op-, out-, pre-, pro-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: improter, forgivable, oppressive, immodest, ...

Practice 2:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. relevant B. Canada C. resident D. protector

2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. jeweler B. oppressive C. carelessness D. satisfy

3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?

- A. beverage B. dynamite C. forgivable D. average

4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?

- A. embracing B. forgetful C. immodest D. cabinet

5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?

- A. analise B. objective C. outspoken D. outstanding

3) Words of three syllable which do not begin with prefixestake the stress on the first syllables.

Eg: analise, comedy, government, temperature, ...

Practice 3:

1. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. scholarship B. convicted C. contrasted D. permitted
2. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. develop B. distressful C. comfortable D. variety
3. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?
A. sovereign B. hostages C. magistrate D. determine
4. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?
A. liable B. revival C. pudding D. puncture
5. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. suspicious B. distressful C. envelope D. returning

4) Three-syllable words which do not begin with prefixes take the stress on the second syllables because the first syllables are short vowels.

Eg: cathedral, december, equator, tobacco, ...

Practice 4:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. equator B. reference C. regular D. register
2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. absentee B. purchasing C. realize D. policeman
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. actual B. surprising C. actively D. recentle
4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. tobacco B. maternal C. magazine D. paternal
5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. tologgan B. december C. cathedral D. policeman

5) Three-syllable words which begin with such prefixes as : re-, sub-, sur-, sus-, trans-, un-, ... take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: remarry, surrounding, transcriber, uncertain, ...

Practice 5:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. anecdote B. transmitter C. comedy D. elephan
2. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. fatherhood B. government C. Italy D. repayment
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. library B. temperature C. uncertain D. amplify

4. Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. altitude B. surpassing C. transcriber D. transmitter
5. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. survival B. longitude C. renaissance D. repayment

6) Some three-syllable words (chiefly nouns and adjectives) which begin with prefixes take the stress on these prefixes because these prefixes contain e,o + consonant or strong and long vowels.

Eg: adjective, consonant, president, excellent, ...

Practice 6:

1. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. evidence B. empower C. importer D. forgetful
2. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. forgivable B. immodest C. objective D. obsacle
3. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. oppressive B. consonant C. outspoken D. projector
4. Which word is not stressed on the first syllable?
A. appetite B. continent C. engagement D. evidence
5. Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. discourage B. excellent C. interval D. protestant

C. Four-syllable words:

- Words of 4-syllable or more which have prefixes and suffixes before and after the roots take the stress on the roots

Eg: correspondence, exceptional, international, considerable, ...

Practice:

1. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. comfortable B. remarkable C. profitable D. sensible
2. Which word is stressed on the third syllable?
A. exemplify B. extraordinary C. elaborate D. syllabication
3. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. governmental B. instrumental C. possibility D. administrative
4. Which word is stressed on the third syllable?
A. international B. expressionism C. believable D. unhappily
5. Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. gentleman B. totally C. unmanly D. carelessness

D. Stress of words having special endings:

1) Words having such endings as: *-ity, -ical, -ic, -ion, -ious, -eous* take the stress on the syllable before the endings.

Eg: *librarian, calculation, electrical, ability, ...*

Practice 1:

- Which word is stressed on the fourth syllable?
A. tyrannical B. methodically C. characteristic D. scientifically
- Which word is stressed on the third syllable?
A. astrologer B. superstitious C. astronomy D. psychology
- Which word is not stressed on the third syllable?
A. arithmetical B. endearment C. privilege D. convenient
- Which word is not stressed on the second syllable?
A. heroine B. penalty C. poetic D. message
- Which word is stressed on the third syllable?
A. impatiently B. ostentatiously C. seriously D. enthusiastically

2) Words having such endings as: *-ety, -logy, -graphy, -metry, -nomy* also take the stress on the syllable before these endings.

Eg: *geography, astrology, society, ...*

- Two-syllable verbs ending in *-ate, -ize, -ise, -fy, -ly* take the stress on the second syllables.

Eg: *locate, surprise, ...*

- Verbs of three-syllable or more, ending in *-ate, -ize, -ise, -fy* take the stress on the third syllable from the end.

Eg: *educate, demonstrate, illuminate, ...*

Practice 2:

- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. energy B. dignity C. variety D. poverty
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. intimate B. celebrate C. articulate D. advocate
- Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. coordinate B. degenerate C. deliberate D. speculate
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. estimate B. precipitate C. alternate D. delicate
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. moderate B. associate C. originate D. appropriate

3) Words having such endings as: *-ial, -ual, -ian, -iar, -ular, -uous, -ient, -ience, -ium, -id, -it, -ish* also take the stress on the syllable before these endings.

Eg: *mechanical, mathematician, finish, efficiency, ...*

Practice 3:

- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. particular B. analyse C. trifle D. butcher
- Which word is stressed on the fourth syllable?
A. illuminate B. accusation C. satisfactory D. conspiratorial
- Which word is stressed on the third syllable?
A. procedure B. banana C. prejudicial D. museum
- Which word is stressed on the first syllable?
A. elaborate B. approximate C. illuminate D. concentrate
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. explicit B. abbey C. ambiguity D. transformation

4) Words having such endings as: *-ade, -ee, -eer, -ese, -oo, -oor, -ette, -esque, -ique, -ain* take the stress on these endings.

Eg: *degrade, persuade, shampoo, cigarette, ...*

Practice 4:

- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. person B. permanent C. personal D. persuade
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. separate B. moderate C. affectionate D. educate
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. understand B. kitchenette C. picturesque D. deliberately
- Which word is not stressed on the third syllable?
A. ascertain B. difficult C. scholarship D. typical
- Which word is stressed on the second syllable?
A. physics B. antique C. classic D. music