

Stress in Noun / Verb Homographs

There are many two-syllable nouns and verbs that are the same in the written form. We can distinguish between these word pairs in their spoken form through the use of stress. In these pairs, the noun will always be stressed on the first syllable and the verb on the second syllable.

EXERCISE C



Listen and repeat the noun / verb pairs. Remember to stress the *noun* on the FIRST syllable and *verb* on the SECOND.

Nouns

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| cónflict | (controversy) |
| cónduct | (one's behavior) |
| cóntent | (subject matter) |
| désert | (barren region) |
| dígest | (synopsis) |
| cóntest | (competition) |
| pérmit | (written warrant) |
| éxploit | (notable act, adventure) |
| óbject | (material thing) |
| íncrease | (enlargement) |

Verbs

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| conflićt | (to clash) |
| condúct | (to lead or guide) |
| contént | (to satisfy) |
| desé́rt | (to abandon) |
| digé́st | (to absorb) |
| conté́st | (to dispute or challenge) |
| permít | (to allow or consent) |
| exploí́t | (to take advantage of) |
| objé́ct | (to oppose or disagree) |
| incréáse | (to make larger) |