

Stress in Adjective / Noun Combinations

When you speak, it's important to use words that describe what you are talking about. Words that describe nouns (people, places, or things) are called adjectives. When you use adjective/noun combinations, the noun normally receives greater stress.

EXAMPLES big **dog** good **book** pretty **dress** nice **boy**

By accidentally stressing the adjective, you might mistakenly say a compound noun with a completely different meaning. Your listeners will be confused!

EXAMPLES cheap **skates** (inexpensive skates) will sound like **cheapskates** (stingy people)
yellow **jacket** (a yellow coat) will sound like **yellowjacket** (a stinging insect)

EXERCISE C



Listen and repeat the sentences. Be sure to stress only the boldfaced words or syllables.

Sentences with Adjective/ Noun Combinations

I like all *blue* **birds**.
We live in the *white* **house**.
I don't like *dark* **rooms**.
He sawed a *black* **board**.
I don't like the *green* **house**.

Sentences with Compound Nouns

I like *bluejays* and *bluebirds*.
The president lives in the **White House**.
Photographers work in **darkrooms**.
The teacher writes on the **blackboard**.
Plants grow in the **greenhouse**.