

Word stress

Phonetics I | PSLV Salta | 2024

Word stress refers to the **emphasis** placed on certain syllables in a word, i.e. the most **prominent syllable** of the word. Word stress in English is **quite unpredictable**, and although there are some rules, they are not 100% effective. So, let's simply start by training our ears to identify the most prominent syllable.

1) **2-syllable words:** Listen to the audio and **select** the accented syllable.

a. Direct / dɪ rekt / 

d. Honest / ɒn ɪst / 

b. Heavy / hev i / 

e. Moody / mu: di / 

c. Answer / ɑ:n sə / 

f. Achieve / ə tʃi:v / 

g. Problem / prɒb ləm / 

2) **3-syllable words:** Listen to the audio and **select** the accented syllable.

3) Look them up in the dictionary to **check their transcription**.

a. Sen | si | ble 

c. In | teres | ting 

b. A | ggress | ive 

d. Or | gan | ise 

e. Punc | tu | al 

4) **4-syllable words:** Listen to the audio and **choose** the correct transcription syllable.

a. Disappointed 
/ 'dɪs ə pɔɪn tɪd /

/ dɪs 'ə pɔɪn tɪd /

/ dɪs ə 'pɔɪn tɪd /

/ dɪs ə pɔɪn 'tɪd /

b. Fascinating 
/ 'fæs ən eɪ tɪŋ /

/ fæs 'ən eɪ tɪŋ /

/ fæs ən 'eɪ tɪŋ /

/ fæs ən eɪ 'tɪŋ /

c. Independent

/ 'ɪn dɪ pen dənt /

/ ɪn 'dɪ pen dənt /

/ ɪn dɪ 'pen dənt /

/ ɪn dɪ pen 'dənt /

d. Responsible

/ 'rɪ spɒn sə bəl /

/ rɪ 'spɒn sə bəl /

/ rɪ spɒn 'sə bəl /

/ rɪ spɒn sə 'bəl /

e. Reliable

/ 'rɪ laɪ ə bəl /

/ rɪ 'laɪ ə bəl /

/ rɪ laɪ 'ə bəl /

/ rɪ laɪ ə 'bəl /