

Word Stress Patterns: Review and Rules

Clear Speech by Judy Gilbert

A Listening to stress patterns

Every English word has a stress pattern. Using the correct pattern is even more important than using the correct sounds. For example, **President** **Prime Minister**

If you say words using their correct stress patterns, it is easier for other people to understand you, even if you do not say every sound exactly right.

B Review: Identifying stress syllables

Listen. Underline the stressed syllable in each word. Remember that the vowel in the stressed syllable is extra long and extra clear.

custom	extremely	refrigerate	electric
customer	accurate	refrigerator	electrical
service	dinner	refrigeration	electrification

C Stress in two-syllable words (Nouns and Verbs)

Stress rule for two-syllable words

Except for verbs, two-syllable words are usually stressed on the first syllable.

Listen to your teacher and repeat.

L emon	r ocket
j acket	o lder
o pen	s tudent
w inter	A pril

D Two-syllable nouns and verbs

Stress rule for words that can be nouns or verbs:

When a two-syllable word can be used as a noun or a verb, the *verb* form is usually stressed on the *second syllable*. The *noun* is usually stressed on the *first syllable*.

Listen. Circle the word you hear.

Noun	Verb
1. c ontract	contract
2. e xport	e xport
3. p rogress	progress
4. r eject	r eject
5. t ransport	transport
6. p resent	present
7. c onflict	conflict
8. r ocket	rocket