28 One house, two houses
Syllables

A

C2a Listen to these three lists of words. The words in list 1 have three parts – we say they have three **syllables**. The words in list 2 have two syllables, and the words in list 3 have one syllable.

1	2	3
in-ter-net	six-ty	six
un-der-line	un-der	line
un-der-lined	u-nit	lines
al-pha-bet	hou-ses	house
con-so-nant	go-ing	goes

C2b Some words have more than three syllables: *television* has four syllables, for example, and *geographical* has five syllables. Listen.

te-le-vi-sion
ge-o-gra-phi-cal

C2c The simplest type of syllable is just a vowel sound, like /uː/. People often say the vowel sound /uː/ (usually written *Ooh*) when they are pleased or surprised. Listen.

Ooh, that's nice!
Ooh, thank you very much!

Ooh, thank you very much!

C2d Some syllables have one or more consonant sounds before the vowel. Listen.

/s/ + /uː/ = /suː/ This is the name *Sue*.
/bl/ + /uː/ = /bluː/ blue

C2e Some syllables have one or more consonants after the vowel. Listen.

/iː/ + /t/ = /iːt/ eat
/iː/ + /st/ = /iːst/ east

C2f Some syllables have consonants before and after the vowel. Listen.

/nj/ + /uː/ + /z/ = /njuːz/ news
/f/ + /iː/ + /ldz/ = /fiːldz/ fields
/str/ + /iː/ + /t/ = /striːt/ street

B

C3a Usually, the number of syllables in a word is the number of vowel <u>sounds</u> – not the number of vowel <u>letters</u>. Listen.

worked	(2 vowel letters but only 1 vowel sound /wɜːkt/, so only 1 syllable)
different	(3 vowel letters but only 2 vowel sounds /ˈdɪfrənt/, so only 2 syllables)
interesting	(4 vowel letters but only 3 vowel sounds /ˈɪntrəstɪŋ/, so only 3 syllables)

C3b Sometimes the sound /l/ can be a syllable with no vowel sound. Listen.

bottle	(2 syllables /ˈbɒ/ + /tl̩/)
syllable	(3 syllables /ˈsɪ/ + /lə/ + /bl̩/)
It'll be ready soon.	(2 syllables /ɪt/ + /l̩/)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

28.1 How many syllables are there in these words? Write the number of syllables next to the word.

eyes [1] why ☐ white ☐ write ☐ writing ☐ glass ☐ glasses ☐
university ☐ business ☐ information ☐

C4a Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key.

C4b Then listen and repeat these sentences.

1 I've got blue eyes.
2 I don't know why.
3 Black coffee or white?
4 Will you write to me?
5 What are you writing?
6 Is this your glass?
7 I don't wear glasses.
8 Where's the university?
9 Business is business.
10 There's the information office.

28.2
1 Which day of the week has three syllables?
2 How many syllables do the other days of the week have?
3 Which numbers between 1 and 20 have three syllables?
4 Which letter of the alphabet has more than one syllable?
5 Which months have only one syllable?

C5 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

28.3 Read this story and mark all the words that have two or three syllables.

I remember(3) once on my first visit(2) to England( ), soon after( ) I started( ) learning( ) English( ), my landlady( ) went shopping( ) and she came back with a big bag full of things, but she forgot( ) to buy some soup – she needed( ) a tin of tomato( ) soup. So I said, 'I'll go to the shop and buy it for you,' because( ) I wanted( ) to be helpful( ) and it was a chance to practise( ) my English( ) a bit. So I went to the little( ) shop round the corner( ) and asked the shopkeeper( ) for tomato( ) soup. But he seemed surprised( ), he didn't( ) understand( ), and I repeated( ) again( ) and again( ) 'soup, tomato( ) soup' until( ) he gave me some red soap, and I realised( ) I'd confused( ) 'soup' and 'soap' and I was asking( ) for 'tomato( ) soap'. I felt terrible( ), I wanted( ) to run out of the shop, but my landlady( ) wanted( ) her soup, so I said, 'Thank you. And tomato( ) soup, please' – this time with the correct( ) pronunciation – and he gave me the soup. I paid and went back to the house and said to the landlady( ), pronouncing( ) very( ) carefully( ), 'Here's your soup, and I bought you this soap as a present( ),' and she said, 'Ooh, thank you very much, that's very( ) nice of you!'

C6 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and practise reading the story aloud.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

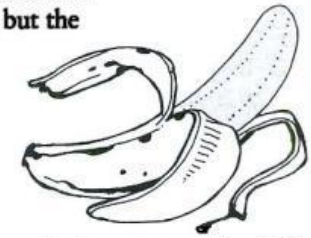
29 Wait a minute – where's the waiter?
Strong and weak vowels

A C7a **The word *London* has two vowel sounds that are written the same – London – but pronounced differently. The first o has a clear, strong sound, but the second o has a weak sound. Listen carefully to the difference.**

London

C7b **The word *banana* has three vowel sounds which are written the same – banana. The second a has a clear, strong sound, but the first a and the third a have a weak sound. Listen.**

banana



Stressed syllables (see Units 30–32) have strong vowel sounds, but unstressed syllables often have weak sounds.

The weak sound in London and banana is /ə/.
London /ˈlʌndən/
banana /bəˈnɑːnə/

C8a

Important for listening

Sometimes it's difficult to hear /ə/. Listen.

London
I have to go to London tomorrow.
banana
Would you like a banana?

This is very important for listening, because it makes it difficult to recognise words. When you speak English, you don't need to pronounce weak sounds as weakly as this, but it's important to make a clear difference between stressed (strong) and unstressed (weak) syllables.

C8b Listen to the other weak vowels in these two sentences.

W S W S W S W W S W
I have to go to London tomorrow.
have – go – Lon – morr are strong, and the others are weak.

W W S W W S W
Would you like a banana?
like – na are strong, and the others are weak.

B **Sometimes different words sound the same because of the weak vowels. Look at these three sentences.**

Where's the waiter?
Is this the way to the school?
Can you wait a minute?

waiter, way to and wait a sound the same: /ˈweɪtə/.

C9 **Listen to the three sentences and repeat.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

29.1 In the words below, * represents the weak vowel /ə/. Write the words with their full spelling.

EXAMPLE
lett* letter

1 Brit*n .....
2 t*day .....
3 *meric* .....
4 p*lice .....
5 *noth* .....
6 *gain .....
7 mount*n .....

C10a Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key.

C10b Then listen and repeat these phrases.

1 Great Brit*n
2 arriving t*day
3 going to *meric*
4 call th* p*lice
5 have *noth*
6 say it *gain
7 climb the mount*n

29.2 Look at the sentences below and find words and phrases in list 1 and list 2 with the same pronunciation.

EXAMPLE
Where's the waiter? – Can you wait a minute?

Where's the waiter?

list 1
~~Where's the waiter?~~
Not at all.
Look in the cellar.
It takes a long time.
Smoking isn't allowed.
I'd like to live in a newer house.

list 2
I heard a loud noise.
You'll see a tall building on your left.
My father knew a lot about music.
~~Can you wait a minute?~~
I'm trying to sell a house.
Walk along the beach.

C11 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

29.3 Write these words.

EXAMPLE
/prə'naʊns/ pronounce

1 /ə'merɪkə/ .....
2 /'sentəns/ .....
3 /'dɪfrənt/ .....
4 /'maʊntən/ .....
5 /tə'deɪ/ .....
6 /'letə/ .....
7 /pə'liːs/ .....
8 /ə'gen/ .....

C12 Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

30 Single or return?
Stress in two-syllable words

A C13a In a two-syllable word, one syllable is stronger than the other. This is the **stressed** syllable. In the word *answer* the first syllable is stressed. (We also say: 'The **stress** is on the first syllable.') Listen.

answer

C13b In the word *again* the second syllable is stressed. (The stress is on the second syllable.) Listen.

again

C13c Two-syllable words often have stress on the first syllable, and the vowel sound in the unstressed syllable is often the weak sound /ə/. Listen and repeat.

brother butter father finger finish glasses listen mother number second sister water woman

C13d Sometimes there's no vowel sound in the unstressed syllable. Listen and repeat.

apple people simple table travel

C13e Some two-syllable words are stressed on the second syllable. Listen and repeat.

agree alone arrive asleep awake
because begin behind
complete
decide
exam explain express
perhaps pronounce
repeat return

B We can show stressed syllables like this O, and unstressed syllables like this o. So words like *answer*, *brother*, *butter* look like this Oo, and words like *again*, *because*, *decide* look like this oO.

Dictionaries usually show stress with this sign ˈ in front of the stressed syllable.

answer /ˈɑːnsə/
again /əˈgen/

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

30.1 Listen and circle the word with different stress.

C14

EXAMPLE

	oO	oO	oO	Oo
	exam	excuse	explain	extra
1	actor	after	afraid	also
2	before	belong	better	between
3	paper	pencil	picture	police
4	coffee	colour	concert	correct
5	English	enjoy	evening	every

Check your answers with the Key. Listen and underline the stressed syllables. Then listen again and repeat.

30.2 Make words from these parts and write them in the correct column.

a **turn** **re** **long** **ing** **er** **sleep**

words with first-syllable stress	words with second-syllable stress
longer	

C15 Check your answers with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

30.3 All these phrases have five syllables. O is a stressed syllable and o is an unstressed syllable. Put the phrases in the correct place.

teacher or student?	the same or different?
single or return?	behind or in front?
asleep or awake?	perhaps or maybe?
finish or begin?	reading or writing?

OooOo 1 teacher or student?
2 .....

OoooO 1 .....
2 .....

oOoOo 1 .....
2 .....

oOooO 1 .....
2 .....

C16 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

30.4 Put the stress mark ˈ in the correct place and write the word.

EXAMPLE

/əraɪv/ → /əˈraɪv/ arrive

1 /sɪstə/ .....
2 /rɪlæks/ .....
3 /piːpl/ .....
4 /fɪnɪʃ/ .....
5 /kəmpliːt/ .....
6 /teɪbl/ .....
7 /prənaʊns/ .....

C17 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

31 Begin at the beginning
Stress in longer words

A C18 Some words have more than two syllables. In every word, one syllable is stressed. Listen and repeat. O is the stressed syllable and oo the unstressed syllables.

Ooo **ex**ercise	**syll**able	There are three syllables in the word *exercise*.
oOo com**put**er	ex**am**ple	*Computer* is an example of a three-syllable word.
ooO under**stand**	Japa**nese**	I can't understand Japanese.
Oooo **su**permarket		Do you like small shops or supermarkets?
oOoo pho**to**graphy		Are you interested in photography?
ooOo infor**ma**tion	mathe**ma**tics	I'd like some information about mathematics courses.
oOooo vo**ca**bulary		Will you help me with my vocabulary?
ooOoo uni**ver**sity		Which university did you go to?
oooOo commu**ni**ca**tion**		Email is very helpful for communication.

B C19a When you add syllables to words, the stress often stays on the same syllable. Listen and repeat.

begin	→	**begin**ning
decide	→	**decid**ed
possible	→	im**pos**sible
sentence	→	**sen**tences
interest	→	**in**teresting

C19b But sometimes a different syllable is stressed. Listen and repeat.

electric	→	elec**tri**city
pronounce	→	pronunci**a**tion
photograph	→	pho**to**graphy
explain	→	expla**na**tion

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

31.1 Write these words.

EXAMPLE /bɪ'gɪnɪŋ/ beginning
1 /'ɪntəvjuː/ .....
2 /mjuː'ziːəm/ .....
3 /mægə'ziːn/ .....
4 /'defɪnətli/ .....
5 /ə'merɪkən/ .....
6 /pɒlɪ'tɪʃən/ .....
7 /næʃə'nælətɪ/ .....
8 /fə'tɒgrəfi/ .....

C20 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

31.2 Listen and write the words in the correct column.

C21a

adjective alphabet cinema eleven furniture grandmother important reception remember tomorrow

Ooo	oOo
adjective	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

C21b Check your answers with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

31.3 Complete the sentences. Choose words with the correct stress from the box. You do not need all the words.

afternoon bicycle conversation delicious discussion exercises expensive holiday morning normally often Saturday seventeen seventy sixty Sunday Sweden Switzerland telephone today yesterday

1 We had a oOo delicious meal on Ooo .....
2 We Ooo ..... go on Ooo ..... by car, but this time we're going by Ooo .....
3 I did ten grammar Oooo ..... Ooo .....
4 Is Ooo ..... an oOo ..... country?
5 My son's ooO ..... and my father's Ooo .....
6 I had a long Ooo ..... ooOo ..... this ooO .....

C22 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

31.4 Six months of the year have three or four syllables. Write them on the correct line.

Oooo	.....	.....		
oOo	September	.....	.....	.....

C23 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

32 Where's my checklist?
Stress in compound words

A

We can often put two words together to make a **compound**, e.g. class + room → classroom. We write some compounds as one word, some as two words, and some with a hyphen (-).

class + room → classroom
car + park → car park
second + hand → second-hand

C24 The stress is normally on the first part of the compound. Listen and repeat.

Oo	**air**port **bath**room **bus** stop **car** park **class**room **foot**ball **girl**friend
Ooo	**bus** station **din**ing room **hair**dresser **news**paper **post** office **sun**glasses
Oooo	**pho**tocopy **rail**way station **shop** assistant
oOoo	po**lice** station
oOooo	com**pu**ter programme

B

C25a Some compound nouns have stress on both parts if the first part is an adjective. Listen and repeat.

OoO **sing**le **room**

C25b Some compound nouns have stress on both parts if the thing in the second part is made of the material in the first part. Listen and repeat.

OO	**glass jar**
OoO	**plas**tic **bag**
oOoO	to**ma**to **soup**

C25c Some compound nouns have stress on both parts if the first part tells us where the second part is. Listen and repeat.

OO	**car door** **front door** **ground floor**
OoOo	**ci**ty **cen**tre **kit**chen **win**dow

C25d When a compound is an adjective, there is often stress on both parts. Listen and repeat.

OO	**first-class** **half-price** **home-made**
OoO	**sec**ond-**hand**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

32.1 C26 Listen and circle the compound with different stress. In the example, both words are stressed in *back door*, but in the others, the first word is stressed.

EXAMPLE
computer screen back door alarm clock bank manager
1 toothache night club crossroads half-price
2 motorbike waiting room second class traffic lights
3 mobile phone credit card swimming pool check-in desk
4 travel agent city centre tourist visa supermarket

32.2 Make five compounds from these parts.

first part: ear wine hand birthday boy
second part: friend bar present bag rings

....

Now use the compounds to complete the dialogue.

A: Oh no, I can't find my .....!
B: Have you looked in your .....?
A: Of course!
B: Maybe you left them in that ..... last night?
A: Oh no, maybe I did!
B: Are they important?
A: Yes – they were a ..... from my .....!

C27 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Listen again and circle the stressed part of each compound. Then listen again and repeat.

32.3 C28 Listen to the poem. The compounds are underlined. Circle the stressed part of each compound.

Checklist
Have I ...
... set the alarm clock?
... and put it on the bedside table?
... put my plane ticket in my trouser pocket?
... packed my toothbrush?
... put my suitcase by the bedroom door?
... switched the CD player off?
... phoned the taxi driver to say 'Be here at six'?
Have I ...
Have I ...
... Where's my checklist?!

Check your answers with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS