Possible Pronunciation Problems

Many languages have specific rules for accenting words. When there is an exception to the rule, an accent mark is generally written above the stressed syllable. There are NO consistent rules in English. Consequently, you may have difficulty when attempting to accent syllables correctly.

1. If you place the stress on the **wrong** syllable:

EXAMPLES **désert** (dry barren region) will sound like **dessért** (sweet foods)
ínvalid (bedridden/ill person) will sound like **inválid** (void, null)

2. If you stress every vowel in a word equally and forget to reduce vowels in unaccented syllables:

EXAMPLES **tomórrow** will sound like **tómórrów**
becáuse will sound like **bécáuse**

As you practice imitating your teacher or the instructor on the CD, your ability to use proper stress patterns when speaking English will improve. BE POSITIVE AND KEEP PRACTICING!

Words Stressed on the First Syllable

1. The majority of two-syllable words are accented on the FIRST syllable.

EXAMPLES Túesday áwful éver bróther óven wíndow

LIVEWORKSHEETS