The following words can be either nouns or verbs. When functioning as a noun, the first syllable is stressed; when as a verb, the second. You can listen to the pronunciation by clicking on the arrow in the center column. (If you would like to practice pronouncing the words/sentences, record yourself and send the recordings to me via WhatsApp.)

NOUNS		VERBS
increase "There's been an increase in the number of students."		in**crease** "Numbers are increasing."
decrease "We've seen a decrease in the bird population."		de**crease** "Numbers are decreasing every year."
desert "They went travelling in the Sahara desert."		de**sert** "The soldiers deserted their post."
refuse "The refuse collectors are on strike."		re**fuse** "He refused permission."
import "This is a cheap import."		im**port** "They import their oil from the UK."
export "Oil is one of their biggest exports."		ex**port** "We need to export more."
discount "Is there a discount on this?"		dis**count** "They discounted the theories."
refund "I'd like a refund please."		re**fund** "We'll refund you 50%."
permit "Do you need a permit to fish here?"		per**mit** "They won't permit her to leave the country."
conflict "They're reporting armed conflict in the area."		con**flict** "His opinion conflicted with hers."
contest "She entered a beauty contest."		con**test** "They contested the results."
insult "Your offer is so low it's an insult."		in**sult** "Don't insult me!"
rebel "He was a rebel when he was younger."		re**bel** "He rebelled against authority."
protest "There's a student protest today."		pro**test** "They're protesting against cuts."
rewite "That's a rewrite of an old song."		re**wite** "That's a rewrite of an old song."
update "We've got some updates for you."		up**date** "We're updating our files."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

upgrade "They got an upgrade on the flight."		up**grade** "It's time to upgrade our computer."
invite "I received an invite to her party."		in**vite** "They invited us to their house."
misprint "There's a misprint in the book."		mis**print** "He misprinted the word."
insert "Put a couple of inserts in this text."		in**sert** "He inserted a few words into her paragraph."
survey "Let's do a customer survey to find out."		sur**vey** "They surveyed over 1000 people."
contrast "There's a big contrast between you two."		con**trast** "He contrasted the two pictures."
detail "It's just a minor detail."		de**tail** "The story details their struggle with poverty."
escort "You'll need an escort to get through security.*		es**cort** "He escorted her out of the door."
perfume "He bought a bottle of perfume for her birthday."		per**fume** "The roses perfumed the room."
upset "The victory was an upset in the championships."		up**set** "He upset her with his cruel remarks."
compound "They lived in a compound."		com**pound** "The policy is just compounding problems."
reject "This is one of the rejects from the factory."		re**ject** "He rejected her advice."
contract "Have you signed the contract?"		con**tract** "The economy is contracting."
conduct "The conduct of the student was unacceptable."		con**duct** "They're conducting an enquiry."
subject "What subjects do you study?"		sub**ject** "She was subjected to harsh criticism."
object "He treats her like an object."		ob**ject** "She objected to the proposals."
present "He gave her a present."		pre**sent** "He's going to present his findings."
project "They're working on a project."		pro**ject** "He projects himself well."

LIVEWORKSHEETS