

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

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