

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 /u:/. People often say the vowel sound /u:/ (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/ + /u:/ = /su:/ This is the name *Sue*.
/b/ + /u:/ = /bu:/ *blue*

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

/i:/ + /t/ = /it/ *eat*
/i:/ + /st/ = /ist/ *east*

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

/n/ + /u:/ + /z/ = /nju:z/ *news*
/f/ + /i:/ + /ldz/ = /fi:ldz/ *fields*
/str/ + /i:/ + /t/ = /stri:t/ *street*

B

- C3a** Usually, the number of syllables in a word is the number of vowel sounds – not the number of vowel letters. Listen.

worked (2 vowel letters but only 1 vowel sound /wɜ:kt/, so only 1 syllable)
different (3 vowel letters but only 2 vowel sounds /'dɪfrənt/, so only 2 syllables)
interesting (4 vowel letters but only 3 vowel sounds /'ɪntrəstɪŋ/, so only 3 syllables)

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

bottle (2 syllables /'bɒ/ + /tl/)
syllable (3 syllables /'sɪ/ + /lə/ + /bl/)
It'll be ready soon. (2 syllables /ɪt/ + /l/)

Exercises

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

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

29

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

A



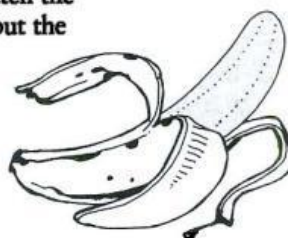
The word *London* has two vowel sounds that are written the same – *London* – but pronounced differently. The first *o* has a clear, strong sound, but the second *o* has a weak sound. Listen carefully to the difference.

London



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 /'lʌndən/

banana /bə'nɑ:nə/

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* – *mor* 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: /'weɪtə/.



Listen to the three sentences and repeat.

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 _____



Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key.



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.



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

29.3 Write these words.

EXAMPLE

/prə'naʊns/ pronounce

1 /ə'merikə/ _____

2 /'sentəns/ _____

3 /'dɪfrənt/ _____

4 /'maʊntən/ _____

5 /tə'deɪ/ _____

6 /'leɪtə/ _____

7 /pə'li:s/ _____

8 /ə'gen/ _____



Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

30

Single or return? Stress in two-syllable words

A



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.

an**swer**



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

a**gain**



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.

bro**ther** bu**tt**er fa**th**er fi**ng**er fi**n**ish gla**ss**es li**st**en mo**th**er nu**m**ber se**co**nd
sis**ter** wa**te**r wo**ma**n



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

ap**pl**e peo**pl**e si**mp**le ta**bl**e tra**ve**l



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

ag**ree** al**o**ne ar**ri**ve as**le**ep aw**ake**
be**ca**use be**gi**n be**hi**nd
com**pl**ete
de**ci**de
ex**am** ex**pl**ain ex**pr**ess
per**h**aps pr**o**nounce
re**pe**at re**tu**rn

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 /ə/^ˈɡeɪn/



Exercises

30.1 Listen and circle the word with different stress.

C14

EXAMPLE

oO	oO	oO	Oo
exam	excuse	explain	<u>extra</u>

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

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

words with first-syllable stress

longer

words with second-syllable stress

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/ → /ə^ˈraɪv/ arrive

1 /sɪstə/ _____

2 /rɪlæks/ _____

3 /piːpl/ _____

4 /fɪnɪʃ/ _____

5 /kəmplɪt/ _____

6 /teɪbl/ _____

7 /prənaʊns/ _____

C17

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

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. **○** is the stressed syllable and **oo** the unstressed syllables.

Ooo

exercise

syllable

There are three syllables in the word *exercise*.

oOo

computer

example

Computer is an example of a three-syllable word.

ooO

understand

Japanese

I can't understand Japanese.

Oooo

supermarket

Do you like small shops or supermarkets?

oOoo

photography

Are you interested in photography?

ooOo

information

mathematics

I'd like some information about mathematics courses.

oOooo

vocabulary

Will you help me with my vocabulary?

ooOoo

university

Which university did you go to?

oooOo

communication

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

→

beginning

decide

→

decided

possible

→

impossible

sentence

→

sentences

interest

→

interesting



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

electric

→

electricity

pronounce

→

pronunciation

photograph

→

photography

explain

→

explanation

Exercises

31.1 Write these words.

EXAMPLE /bɪ'ɡɪnɪŋ/ beginning

- 1 /'ɪntəvju:/
- 2 /mju:'zi:əm/
- 3 /mægə'zi:n/
- 4 /'defɪnətli/
- 5 /ə'merɪkən/
- 6 /pɒlɪ'tɪʃən/
- 7 /næfə'næləti/
- 8 /fə'tɒgrəfi/



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

31.2 Listen and write the words in the correct column.



adjective alphabet cinema eleven furniture grandmother important
reception remember tomorrow

Ooo	oOo
<u>adjective</u>	
.....	
.....	
.....	



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



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	<u>September</u>	



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

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 **dining** room **hair**dresser **news**paper **post** office **sun**glasses
 Oooo **photo**copy **railway** station **shop** assistant
 oOoo **police** station
 oOooo **compu**ter programme



B

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

OoO **single** 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 **plastic** bag
 oOoO **tomato** 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 **city** centre **kitchen** window

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 **second-hand**

Exercises

- 32.1** 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.

C26

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: car 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** Listen to the poem. The compounds are underlined. Circle the stressed part of each compound.

C28

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.

