

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.

answer



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.

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



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

apple **people** **simple** **table** **travel**



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 ' in front of the stressed syllable.

answer /'ɑ:nsə/

again /ə'geɪn/



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	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 ' in the correct place and write the word.

EXAMPLE

/əraɪv/ → /ə^ˈraɪv/ arrive

1 /sɪstə/ _____

2 /rɪlæks/ _____

3 /pi:pəl/ _____

4 /fɪnɪʃ/ _____

5 /kəmpli:t/ _____

6 /teɪbl/ _____

7 /prənaʊns/ _____

C17

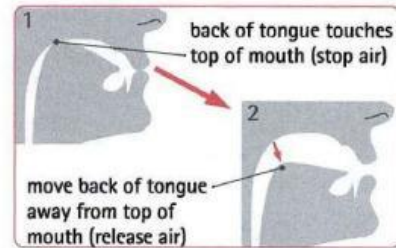
Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

A

How to make the sound /k/



- Look at the diagrams. Listen and say the sound.
 - Stop the air with the back of your tongue against the top of your mouth.
 - Move your tongue to release the air. If you hold a piece of paper in front of your mouth when you release the air, the paper moves. Target sound: /kə/



B

Sound and spelling



- /k/ is usually spelled c, k or ck, and sometimes ch. Listen and say these words.

c car cat careful clean close colour fact
k keep key kind kitchen desk like talk walk
ck back black check pocket tick
ch school stomach chemist architect



- /kw/ is often spelled qu. Listen and say these words. quick quiet quarter



- /ks/ is often spelled x. Listen and say these words. fax six taxi



Note: The letter k is silent in a few words, e.g. know, knee, knife.



- Listen and say these sentences.
 - Look in the kitchen cupboard.
 - Keep your keys in your pocket.

C

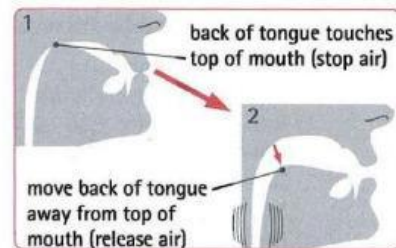
How to make the sound /g/



- Look at the diagrams. Listen and say the sound.
 - Stop the air with the back of your tongue against the top of your mouth.
 - Move your tongue to release the air.

/g/ is different from /k/ in two ways:

- If you hold a piece of paper in front of your mouth when you release the air, the paper does not move.
- There is voicing (vibration from the throat). Target sound: /gə/



- Listen and say the two sounds. /kə/ /gə/

D

Sound and spelling



- /g/ is usually spelled g or gg. Listen and say these words.
garden girl glass go gold ago hungry bag leg egg bigger



- /gz/ is sometimes spelled x. Listen and say these words. exam exactly



Note: The letter g is silent in some words, e.g. foreigner, sign, high, bought.

Note: There is usually no /g/ sound in words like sing, sings, singing, singer (see Unit 19).



Note: Some words have a silent u after g. Listen and say these words. guess guest dialogue



- Now listen and say these sentences.
 - Can you guess the beginning of the dialogue?
 - Are you going jogging again?



You often don't hear /k/ or /g/ clearly in the middle or at the end of a word. Listen.

Important
for listening

- I li(k)ed the film – the a(c)ting was perfe(c)t.
- Do you li(ke) fo(lk) musi(c)?
- It was a dar(k) night.
- What's your do(g) called?

Exercises

13.1 Write the words. Choose from the words in the box.

ache again ago back bag big bigger bike black called cake
 carry classical coffee cold comb come copy gave get give great
 grey guess guest keys kiss walk work

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 /gɪv/ _____ <i>give</i> | 8 /eɪk/ _____ | 15 /bæg/ _____ |
| 2 /bɪg/ _____ | 9 /gest/ _____ | 16 /'bɪgə/ _____ |
| 3 /get/ _____ | 10 /bæk/ _____ | 17 /kəʊld/ _____ |
| 4 /kəʊm/ _____ | 11 /'kɒfi/ _____ | 18 /'kæri/ _____ |
| 5 /ki:z/ _____ | 12 /ə'gen/ _____ | 19 /wɜ:k/ _____ |
| 6 /keɪk/ _____ | 13 /wɜ:k/ _____ | 20 /greɪ/ _____ |
| 7 /kɪs/ _____ | 14 /kɔ:ld/ _____ | |

B4 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

13.2 Complete the words. They all have /k/ or /g/ sounds.

- 1 Can I carry your bas?
- 2 Give me a biss.
- 3 You ave me old offee aain.
- 4 A rey at with reen eyes waled into the arden.
- 5 The uests would lie es for breafast.

B5 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

13.3 Listen and fill the gaps.

B6

EXAMPLE

- It's time to go back.
- 1 Shall we _____?
 - 2 I came by _____.
 - 3 When you go out, _____ the _____.
 - 4 I'm going to buy a new _____ tomorrow.
 - 5 A: You don't _____ in your tea, do you?
 B: I do, in _____.
 - 6 It's only seven o'clock and it's already _____.
 - 7 Listen and _____.
 - 8 Mark your answer with a _____.

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

13.4 Listen and circle the word you hear. Check with the Key. If you find any of these difficult, go to Section E3 *Sound pairs* for further practice.

B7

- 1 *back* / *bag* (⇒ sound pair 28)
- 2 *cold* / *gold* (⇒ sound pair 28)

