

A Syllable; It is a smallest and the single unit of speech, pronounced as a whole, it usually contains a vowel.

1. Words with **one syllable**

Cat, cold, quite, start, hope, clean, trade, green, chair, , sign, pea, wish, drive, **plant, square, shine, watch, catch, flight,** rain, speech, crab, lion, knot, fixed, slope, reach, trade, light, moon, wash, trend, etc.

2. Words with **two syllables**

Par/ty, spe/cial, to/day, qui/et, or/ange, part/ner, tab/le, de/mand, power, retrieve, [doctor](#), engine, diet, trans/crime, contain, [cabbage](#), mountain, humour, defend, spatial, special, greedy, exchange, manage, carpet, although, trophy, insist, tremble, balloon, healthy, shower, verbal, business, mortgage, fashion, hover, butcher, magic, broken

3. Words with **three syllables**

Fan/tas/tic, e/ner/gy, ex/pen/sive, won/der/ful, la/ugha/ble, bad/min/ton, idiot, celery, beautiful, aggression, **com/pu/ter,** journalist, [horrify](#), gravity, temptation, dieting, trampoline, industry, [financial](#), **dis/tin/guished,** however, tremendous, justify, **in/fla/tion,** creation, injustice, energeise, glittering, tangible, mentalise, laughable, dialect,

4. Words with **four syllables**

Un/der/stan/ding, in/de/ci/sive, conversation, realistic, moisturising, [American](#), psychology, gregarious, **in/de/pen/dence,** affordable, me/mo/ran/dum, controversial, superior, gymnasium, entrepreneur, **tra/di/tio/nal,** transformation, [remembering](#), establishment, vegetation, affectionate, acupuncture, invertebrate.

5. Words with **five syllables**

Or/ga/ni/sa/tion, un/con/troll/able, ins/pi/ra/tio/nal, [misunderstanding](#), conversational, opinionated, biological, subordination, **de/ter/mi/na/tion,** sensationalist, refrigerator, haberdashery, hospitality, conservatory, procrastination, disobedience, electrifying, consideration, apologetic, particularly, compartmentalise, hypochondria

6. Words with **six syllables**

Res/pon/si/bi/li/ty, idiosyncratic, dis/cr/i/mi/na/to/ry, invisibility, capitalisation, extraterrestrial, reliability, autobiography, **un/im/a/gi/na/ble,** characteristically, superiority, antibacterial, disciplinarian, **en/vi/ron/men/ta/list,** materialism, biodiversity, criminalisation, imaginatively, disobediently

7. Words with **seven syllables**

In/dus/tri/al//i/sa/tion, mul/ti/cul/tu/ra/li/sm, in/ter/dis/ci/pli/na/ry, radioactivity, unidentifiable, environmentalism, individuality, [vegetarianism](#), unsatisfactorily, [electrocardiogram](#)

RHYTHM

There are always one or more stressed syllables within a word and the alternative arrangement of syllables in words and sentences develop their own [rhythm](#).

There are stressed and unstressed syllable.

Rhythm demonstrates the long and short patterns through stressed and unstressed syllables, particularly in [verse](#) form.

STRESS

1. **In word:** Stress is the emphasis in pronouncing a specific syllable in a word.

Here are some examples, with the stress on the bolded syllables:

- **A**fternoon
- **D**eparture
- **I**nvite
- **F**antastic

2. **Sentence stress:** With sentence stress, **you're stressing or emphasizing specific words in a sentence over the others, to bring in the correct expression.**

Examples

- Do you **have** an **English class** this **week**?
- The **world** was **so different** centuries ago.

Stress is the emphasis in pronouncing a specific syllable in a word. It is defined as **giving force or emphasizing specific words in a sentence over the others, to bring in the correct expression.** There are two types of stress,

(i) **Primary stress** (´) Providing force to a specific syllbe is primary stress and

(ii) **Secondary Stress** (,) weak syllable with less or no force is secondary stress,

Af/ter/noon (Primary stress on /Aft/, Secondary Stress on /ter/noon/. Similary in the words, **D**eparture, **I**nvite, **F**antastic.

(iii) **Stress shift** is when stress is shifted due to change in pronunciation or adding suffixes, /**Po**/li/tics/, /po/**li**/ti/cal ,/po/li/ti/**ca**/lly/

Stress can change the meaning of a word

Example :

I have to submit my project today. (Who?)

I **have to** submit my project today. (Why?)

I have to **submit** my project today. (What do you have to do?)

I have to submit **my** project today. (Whose?)
I have to submit my **project** today. (What?)
I have to submit my project **today**. (When?)

1. I didn't steal your wallet, (someone else did!)
2. I **didn't** steal your wallet! (did not)
3. I didn't **steal** your wallet, (I just borrowed it!)
4. I didn't steal **your** wallet, (I stole someone else's wallet!)
5. I didn't steal your **wallet**, (I stole your cell phone!)

Word Stress Rules in the English Language

Rule 1: Nouns and Verbs stress changes

Noun and Verbs

- **Object** –

'object' as a noun

When the word '**object**' is pronounced (with a stress on the first syllable) as a [noun](#) meaning an 'item', 'purpose' or 'person/thing that is the focus' of a sentence.

- 1 The ring was an **object** of high value
- 2 The **object** was small and shiny

'object' as verb

But if the same word is pronounced '**object**' (with the stress on the second syllable) the word is now a [verb](#), meaning 'to disagree with' something or someone.

1. She strongly **objects** to being called a liar
2. The man **objected** to his arguments
3. They **object** to his resentment.

- **Present**

When the word 'present' is pronounced '**present**' (with the stress on the first syllable) the word is a noun meaning 'a gift' or an [adjective](#) meaning 'here / not absent'.

For example: '**present**' as a noun

- She handed him a beautifully wrapped **present**
- The book was a **present** from their grandparents

: '**present**' as an adjective

- Everyone was **present** at the meeting

But when the word is pronounced ‘**present**’ (with the stress on the second syllable) the word is now a **verb** meaning ‘**to introduce**’ something or someone, ‘**to show**’ or ‘**to bring to one’s attention**’.

For example: ‘**present**’ as a verb

- May I **present** Charlotte Smith, our new store manager
- I’d like to **present** my research on the green cells of plants
- They **presented** the glittering trophy to the winner
- She was **presented** with the Oscar award
- This new situation **presents** a problem

- **Project**

Another example of an English word changing meaning depending on where you place the stress is the word ‘**project**’. This can be the noun when the stressed syllable is at the start – ‘**project**’ (a task).

For example: ‘**project**’ as noun

- They started work on the research **project** immediately
- She looked forward to her next **project** – repainting the house
- He enjoyed writing restaurant reviews – it was his current passion **project**

However, this word becomes a verb when the stressed syllables moves to the end – ‘to **project**’ (to throw/launch, to protrude, to cause an image to appear on a surface, or to come across/make an impression).

For example: **project**’ as a verb

- The rocket was **projected** into the air at high velocity
- The film will be **projected** onto the screen soon
- The chimney **projects** 3 metres from the roof
- She always **projects** herself with confidence

Let’s start off with word stress rules. **Although the same syllable is always stressed in each word, where this syllable is located varies from word to word.** Some words will have their first syllable stressed, while for others, it’s the last or even the middle syllable.

Rule 2: When there is suffix added to the word

- **Photo** , Photograph, Photograph**y**, Photograph**ical**, Photograph**ically**
- **Politics**, Political, Polit**ically**, Polit**ician**

These are the main word stress rules in English:

Rule 3: Nouns and adjectives usually stress the first syllable.

This is a useful rule because nouns and adjectives are among the most common words that you'll encounter.

Nouns refer to people, places, and things.

Examples:

- **Bottle**
- **Flower**
- **Library**
- **Ocean**
- **Pencil**

Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns.

Examples:

- **Happy**
- **Interesting**
- **Massive**
- **Modern**
- **Tasty**

Rule 4: Two-syllable verbs and prepositions usually stress the second syllable.

Verbs are action words that describe what someone (or something) is doing. They can also refer to states of being (e.g. am, are, feel).

Examples:

- **Approach**
- **Commute**
- **Maintain**
- **Perform**
- **Suggest**

Prepositions convey how a noun or pronoun is connected to another word in a sentence. They can refer to location, direction, or time, among others.

Examples:

- **Above**
- **Among**
- **Except**
- **Instead**
- **Until**

Rule 5: Three-syllable verbs usually stress the first syllable.

If verbs have three syllables instead of two syllables, then most of the time, it's the first syllable that's stressed. This is actually true for most three-syllable words!

Examples:

- Celebrate
- **Cont**emplate
- **Decor**ate
- **Ent**ertain
- **Inno**vate

Rule 6: Words ending in -ic, -sion, and -tion usually stress the second-to-last-syllables.

These are suffixes that are found at the end of the word, so the syllable right before is the one that's stressed. This rule also applies to less common suffixes starting in I or U such as -ual, -uous, and -ial.

Examples:

- **Com**passion
- **Deci**sion
- **Elect**ric
- **Imagi**nation
- **Rej**ection

Rule 7: Words ending in -cy, -ty, and -gy usually stress the third-to-last-syllables.

For this rule, just count backwards from the last syllable.

Examples:

- **Ag**ency
- **Bi**ology
- **Flu**ency
- **Soci**ety
- **Secu**rity
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