

Sentence Stress



1

Below is a list of individual sentences. The stressed words have been put in bold to help you. Read the sentences aloud with the correct stress.

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am an English teacher and I love my job. 2. You must do the laundry tonight! 3. Can you please clean the house before my mum arrives later? 4. Are you going to visit France this summer? 5. We went to my sister's birthday party at the weekend. 6. Why are you learning English? 7. I think she's getting married in summer. 8. Shall I cook some risotto for dinner tonight? 9. They are so happy now they have bought a new house. 10. He dropped his phone down the toilet, so now it's broken! 11. Why is it so difficult to learn sentence stress in English? 12. How often do you brush your teeth? 13. Could you open the window? It's very hot in here! 14. There are too many people in this room! 15. Shall we open the presents before they arrive? 16. These flowers are beautiful! 17. I bought a new leather jacket today. I love it! 18. What is your favourite colour? 19. They have been in Portugal for the past 10 years. 20. My best friend wants to be my bridesmaid at my wedding. 21. Why is this on the table? 22. I don't like the colour of those jeans. 23. Wow! That's amazing! 24. It's raining outside, so you need your umbrella. 25. Could you tell me where the cathedral is?

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- 2 Below is a text written by the team at Virtually Fluent explaining why it's so important to learn English. Read the text aloud, focusing on sentence stress. The stressed words have been put in bold to help you.



Why is English So Important?

English is the **de facto** global language of **communication**. There are **67 countries** that **speak English** as an **official primary language**. This **means** there are around **400 million native speakers** and an **additional 1.1 billion EFL** (English as a Foreign Language) **speakers** who will **understand** you if you **communicate** with them in **English**. In **effect**, **English** is the **lingua franca**.

English and Business

English has **been directly related** to **better business opportunities**. You can **easily communicate** with **people around the world** and **counterparts** in **different offices** too. **Even** if you're **not working** with **native English-speaking countries**, you'll **often find** that the **majority of people** have at least a **basic knowledge** of the **English language**, meaning you **have** an **automatic means of communication**.

In **addition**, some of the **strongest economies** in the **world**, the **United States of America** and the **United Kingdom**, are **native English-speaking countries**. If

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you **want** to **do business** with **either** of these **countries**, it's **almost essential** to **have a knowledge** of the **English language**.

According to the **English Proficiency Index 2017**, there are **direct connections** **between people** with **higher salaries** or **higher-ranking jobs** and **high English levels**.

Nowadays, **knowing English** is **often** a **basic requirement** for a **job**. **English** has been **made** the **official “company language”** in **many global companies**, such as **Airbus** and **Samsung**, **even** if the **company** is **not originally** from an **English-speaking country**.

English and Culture

English opens the **door** to a **variety** of **cultural activities** including **films**, **TV series**, **books**, **newspapers**, **published articles** and **music**. The **meaning** of some **words** and **phrases** **often gets lost** in **translation** and it's **always much better** to **understand** a **language** in its **original form**.

In **addition**, **English** is the **language** of the **Internet** with a **huge number** of **tweets**, **Facebook posts** and **online articles** being **written** in **English**. More than **half** of the **most searched websites** are **English**.

English and Education

English has a **profound connection** with **education**. **Almost every school** in **Europe** and **many schools** **across** the **world**, both **primary** and **secondary**, **require** their **students** to **learn English**. In **addition**, **many universities** **require** a **certain level** of **English** upon **application** and **have compulsory courses** **taught** in **English**.

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Some of the **best universities** in the **world**, including **Cambridge University**, **Oxford University**, **Harvard University** and **Stanford University** are all **English-speaking**. In **fact**, **9** of the **top 10 universities** in the **world** are **native English** and there are **many more** in the **top 100**.

It has been **predicted** by the **British Council** that **approximately 2 billion people** will be **able** to **communicate** in **English** by the **end** of **2020**, that's around **30%** of the **world's population** and this **number** is **estimated** to **continue increasing**.

So, **what reason** do you **have not** to **learn English**? It **provides opportunities** to **advance** in your **career**, it **brings people together** from **every corner** of the **world**, it **expands** your **sources of entertainment** and can **get** you the **best education** in the **world**.

*"They had **nothing** in **common** but the **English language**"*

E.M. Forster

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3

Below is a list of sentences, all using modifiers or intensifiers, meaning emphatic stress is required. Read the sentences aloud using emphatic stress rules. The word to stress is in bold.

Emphatic Sentence Stress	
1.	We are definitely going out.
2.	I am very angry!
3.	She fully understands the consequences.
4.	I'm really sorry for hurting you.
5.	I deeply regret having said that.
6.	I sincerely apologise for the mistake.
7.	I'm very much looking forward to meeting you next week.
8.	They were totally amazed at the level of my English.
9.	She was so unbelievably rude.
10.	I strongly believe that English is an important language to learn.
11.	She's very happy with her results.
12.	It's really hot in Spain at the moment.
13.	I think I've fully integrated now.
14.	She is totally crazy!
15.	This answer is completely wrong.
16.	Sincerely , I didn't realise.
17.	They are so rich.
18.	The show was very good.
19.	I'm totally speechless.
20.	I'm sorry, but I strongly disagree with you.

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4

Below is a collection of sentences. Read every sentence aloud, taking care that you read the sentence with the correct stress. A different word has been stressed each time. This is contrastive stress.

Sentence 1

- My phone is pink
- My phone is pink
- My phone is pink
- My phone is pink

Sentence 2

- That water is cold
- That water is cold
- That water is cold
- That water is cold

Sentence 3

- Can you close that window?
- Can you close that window?
- Can you close that window?
- Can you close that window?
- Can you close that window?

Sentence 4

- Where are my new trousers?
- Where are my new trousers?
- Where are my new trousers?
- Where are my new trousers?
- Where are my new trousers?