

Pronunciation Review

Sentence Stress

English is a non-syllabic language which means that there is a rhythm when it is spoken. To create stress, we must make our voice longer and louder, make the pitch higher, make the sound clearer and more enunciated and have more facial expression.

All parts of speech are separated into content and function words. Content words are stressed, and function words are not stressed.

Content	Function
<i>Stressed</i>	<i>Unstressed</i>
Noun	Personal Pronoun
Possessive Pronoun	Relative Pronoun
Main Verb	Affirmative Auxiliary Verb
Negative Auxiliary Verb	Possessive Adjective
Adjective	Demonstrative
Adverb	Preposition
Interrogative	Conjunction
	Interjection
	Article

EXAMPLE

Will you **watch** the **children** because I'm **going** to **town**?
The words in **bold** are stressed, content words.

EXAMPLES

Whose cat is cute? **My** cat is cute
What is cute? My **cat** is cute
Your cat isn't cute That's not true. My cat **is** cute
Describe your cat My cat is **cute**

EXCEPTIONS to the normal stress rules;

1) No Stress

Announcements on public transport and robots talking normally requires no sentence stress

2) Emphatic Stress

The stress is eliminated from one word and added to another. This is normally done with modifiers and intensifiers such as *deeply, positively, fully, really, very much, totally, utterly, strongly, sincerely*.

3) Contrastive Stress

The stress is changed to a new word to emphasise something or change the meaning. This is often done with demonstratives (*this, that, these, those*).

4) Poetry

English poetry has a variety of different meters, such as iamb, trochee, spondee, anapaest and dactyl. Each poem will have its own meter that doesn't follow the normal stress rules.