

Word Stress

Word stress is when we make a louder and longer sound, have a higher pitch, make a clearer and more enunciated sound and use more facial movement on one syllable within an entire word. This will always be on a vowel.

Rule	Example Word
2-Syllable nouns and adjectives stress the first syllable	<u>b</u>ottle
2-Syllable verbs and prepositions stress the second syllable	be <u>g</u>in
2-Syllable words ending in ER or EN stress the first syllable	<u>l</u>isten
3-Syllable words ending in ER or LY stress the first syllable	<u>ma</u>nager
Words with the suffix able, cian, ery, ial, ian, ible, ic/s, ient, ion, ious, ish, osis, sion or tion stress the penultimate syllable	drama <u>t</u>ic
Words with the suffix ade, ee, eer, ese, ette, que or oon stress the suffix	lemon <u>a</u>de
Words with the suffix al, cy, gy, phy or ty stress the third from last syllable	demo <u>cr</u>acy
Compound nouns stress the first word	<u>h</u>airbrush
Compound adjectives and compound verbs stress the second word	open- <u>m</u>inded
Compound words formed of adjective + verb stress the second word	dry- <u>c</u>leaning
Compound words formed of noun + preposition stress the second word	passer- <u>b</u>y

There are also some differences in word stress between the British and American variations.

When words originate from the French language, British speakers tend to stress the first syllable whilst American speakers tend to stress the last syllable.

EXAMPLES

chauffeur, croissant, salon

When words end in ATE, British speakers tend to stress this suffix whilst American speakers tend to stress the first syllable instead.

EXAMPLES

donate, migrate, translate

There are also other words where British and American variations have different word stress.