



## Sentence Stress Interactive Worksheet **Answers**

*In order to complete this worksheet, you should watch the pronunciation video about sentence stress in English. You should complete this worksheet at the same time as watching the video.*

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**EXERCISE A: What is the difference between a syllabic and a non-syllabic language?**

A syllabic language is where every single syllable in a word and every single word in a sentence is important, so each one is pronounced, with equal length and equal stress. A non-syllabic language is where only some words in a sentence and only some syllables within each word are stressed and important.

**EXERCISE B: Is English a syllabic or non-syllabic language? Circle the correct answers.**

What type of language is English?

**SYLLABIC**

**NON-SYLLABIC**

**EXERCISE C: What are the five conditions of stressing a word in English?**

- 1) Longer sound
- 2) Louder sound
- 3) Higher pitch
- 4) More enunciated and clearer sound
- 5) More facial movement

**EXERCISE D:** Below is a selection of parts of speech. Put them into the correct column in the table. If the parts of speech are content words, put them in column 1 and if the parts of speech are function words, put them in column 2.

Noun	Possessive Pronoun	Personal Pronoun	Relative Pronoun
Main Verb	Negative Auxiliary Verb	Affirmative Auxiliary Verb	
Adjective	Possessive Adjective	Demonstrative	Adverb
Preposition	Conjunction	Interjection	Interrogative
			Article

Content Words	Function Words
Nouns, Possessive Pronouns, Main Verbs, Negative Auxiliary Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Interrogatives	Personal Pronouns, Affirmative Auxiliary Verbs, Possessive Adjectives, Demonstratives, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections, Articles

**EXERCISE E:** Which words are stressed in the following sentence? Highlight the stressed words.

Will you watch the children because I'm going to town?

**EXERCISE F:** What is emphatic stress?

Emphatic stress is: Where you take the stress off one word and add it to a different word in the sentence.

**EXERCISE G:** What is contrastive stress? Provide an example sentence.

Contrastive stress is: Where we stress any word in the sentence to change the meaning of the sentence or to reply to a question that somebody has asked.

For example: Is that your book? No, that is my book.

EXERCISE H: Is the following sentence true or false? Select the correct answer.

Contrastive stress is usually used with demonstratives (this, that, these, those)

TRUE

FALSE

EXERCISE I: Complete the following table. In the first column you can see a sentence with a certain word being stressed (bold, underlined). In the second column, you should write what the focus of this sentence is and how this stress changes the meaning. In the third column, you should write a possible question that has been asked to require this answer.

Sentence	Meaning	Question Asked
<u>My</u> cat is cute	Possession of the cat	Whose cat is cute?
My <u>cat</u> is cute	Object	What is cute?
My cat <u>is</u> cute	Counter statement	Your cat isn't cute!
My cat is <u>cute</u>	Character	Describe your cat

EXERCISE J: What is the stress of the following sentence following normal stress rules? Draw the stress using stress bubbles, underlining or highlighting.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

EXERCISE K: What is the stress of the following sentence following poetry, the iambic pentameter. Draw the stress using stress bubbles, underlining or highlighting.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?