

Word Stress

| *There are sometimes differences in the pronunciation of nouns/adjectives and verbs:*

2 Syllables

Nouns and Adjectives

PROgress
CONduct
CONtent (*n.*)
CONtest
CONtract
CONtrast
FREquent

INcrease
INsult
OBject
PERfect
PERmit
PREsent
PROduce
PROtest

REcess
REcord
SUBject
SURvey
PROject

Verbs

to proGRESS
to conDUCT
to conTENT (*also adj.*)
to conTEST
to conTRACT
to conTRAST
to freQUENT (*Br.*)
(*U.S. to FREquent*)
to inCREASE
to inSULT
to obJECT
to perFECT
to perMIT
to preSENT
to proDUCE
to proTEST (*Br.*)
(*U.S. to PROtest*)
to reCESS
to reCORD
to subJECT
to survey
to proJECT

3 Syllables

Nouns and Adjectives

COMpliment
ESTimate
MODerate
SEParate
SUPplement

Verbs

to compliMENT
to estiMATE
to modeRATE
to sepaRATE
to suppleMENT

4 Syllables

(*primary stress is on
the second syllable*)

Adjectives

apPROpriate
eLABorate

(*primary stress on the 2nd syllable;
secondary stress on the 4th*)

Verbs

to apPROpriATE
to eLABorate

| *The italicized words in the following sentences have contrasting stress patterns. Working with a partner, try to agree on the correct stress.*

- a. Most people were disturbed by his *conduct* during the seminar.
The way she *conducted* the meeting was unorthodox, but highly effective.
- b. The market *survey* revealed several of our product's weaknesses.
The governor *surveyed* the earthquake damage.
- c. I don't think she meant her comment to be an *insult*.
I have never been so *insulted* in all my life!
- d. The *content* of your talk is very interesting, but improving your presentation techniques will get you more favourable results.
Brian seems very *content* at his present job, so I doubt if he'll apply for the promotion.
- e. The *object* of this meeting is to discuss the reorganization of the department.
He vigorously *objected* to being transferred to the personnel department.
- f. The tennis player *contested* the referee's decision.
The dancing *contest* was won by the young French couple.
- g. The weather was less than *perfect*, but the outing was nonetheless a great success.
A language course abroad is an efficient way to *perfect* your English.
- h. Last summer's *record* heat wave was the hottest in over a century.
Will the surviving Beatles *record* another album?
- i. The *increase* in unemployment has defied solution.
This new strain will *increase* rice production substantially.
- j. Which of the 3 garages gave you the lowest *estimate* for the repairs?
They *estimated* that the cost-saving measures would save them a million dollars per year.
- k. The newspapers revealed that the Queen and her husband have *separate* bedrooms.
It's necessary to *separate* economic refugees from genuine political refugees.
- l. His jeans weren't exactly *appropriate* dress for the occasion.
The congress *appropriated* \$5 million for flood relief.