

SENTENCE STRESS



1/ What is sentence stress?

sentence stress is the greater **prominence** with which one or more words in a sentence are pronounced (as compared with the other words of a the same sentence).



The **prominence** consists of four factors:
loudness, length, pitch and quality.

2/ Levels of sentence stress

There are three distinct levels of stress in the sentence:

- a. **primary** (main) stress
- b. **secondary** stress
- c. **non_stress** (unstressed)



Examples:

1. He will 'come in a 'day.
2. He reads the newspaper every day.
3. It's going to rain tomorrow.
4. She wants to sing, not dance.
5. The girls want a picnic, but the boys want a party.
6. It's a very interesting book.

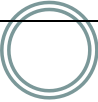
RULES FOR SENTENCE STRESS



The basic rules of sentence stress are:

a. Content words are stressed

Content words are the key words of a sentence. They are the **important** words that carry the **meaning** or **sense**.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | |
| Words carrying the meaning |  Example |
| main verbs | SELL, GIVE, EMPLOY |
| nouns | CAR, MUSIC, MARY |
| adjectives | RED, BIG, INTERESTING |
| adverbs | QUICKLY, LOUDLY, NEVER |
| negative auxiliaries | DON'T, AREN'T, CAN'T |
| | |



b. Structure words are usually unstressed.

- Structure words are **not** very important words. They are simple words that give the sentence its correct form or "structure".

| Words for correct grammar | Example |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| pronouns | he, we, they |
| prepositions | on, at, into |
| articles | a, an, the |
| conjunctions | and, but, because |
| auxiliary verbs | do, be, have, can, must |



Note:

Sometimes we can stress a word that would normally be only a structure word to correct information. For example:

"They've been to Mongolia, haven't they?"

"No, **THEY** haven't, but **WE** have"

CONTRASTIVE STRESS



- **Contrastive stress** is flexible stress based on the speaker's purpose

USAGE



- To differ ideas that exist in one or 2 or more words.

Eg:

- I LIKE dancing but I DON'T like singing.
- I'm LIVING in the CITY but I'm THINKING of MOVING to the COUNTRYSIDE.

USAGE



- To convey special meanings.

Eg:

- I CAN speak Chinese so let me talk with her. /kæn/ (strong form)
- I CAN swim. / kən / (weak form)

USAGE



To suggest emphasis, irritation or sarcasm

Eg:

- You're such a FOOL! (irritation)
→ Yes, I AM. (sarcasm)

OTHER EXAMPLES



The sentence “*He reads the newspaper every evening*”.

- “*He reads the newspaper every evening*” answers the question “*What does he do every evening?*”
- “*He reads the newspaper every evening*” answers the question “*What does he read every evening?*”
- “*He reads the newspaper every evening*” answer the question “*When does he read the newspaper?*”

THE STRESS-GROUP

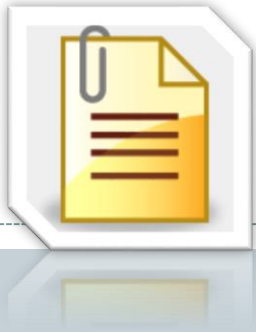


- The unstressed words associated with the stressed word next to them can form a further phonologically relevant unit – known as “*stress-group*”
- Eg: I bought a computer at the mall

QUIZ SHOW

- In which sentence does the speaker want to tell us that John's car is not second hand?
 - a) John has bought a new car
 - b) John has bought a new car
 - c) John has bought a new car
 - d) John has bought a new car





QUIZ SHOW

1. This is very demanding on their kidneys.
2. They claim it to be an invasion of privacy.
3. The average water temperature on Earth is about zero degrees Celsius.
4. The reason for this change was random mutation.



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1. This is very **demanding** on their **kidneys**.
2. They **claim** it to be an **invasion** of **privacy**.
3. The **average** water temperature on **Earth** is about **zero** degrees **Celsius**.
4. The **reason** for this **change** was **random mutation**.



QUIZ SHOW

5. It's for matching conversation partners from different countries.
6. I was very proud of my brother when he was accepted into medical school.
7. He wanted to bet money on the horses.
8. The needs of people in other countries should not be ignored.



QUIZ SHOW

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6. I was very **proud** of my **brother** when he was accepted into **medical** school.
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8. The **needs** of people in **other** countries should **not** be **ignored**.

QUIZ SHOW

I had a difficult time sharing a hotel room with three of my friends during a ski trip. The problem was that I like to be clean and get a good sleep, but they preferred to party all the time. For example, I tried to go to bed at about 11:00 pm, but they kept playing loud music and drinking beer until very late. At the end of the trip, I had a headache, and we were forced to pay extra because our room was so messy. Needless to say, I never went on a trip with those friends again.

QUIZ SHOW

1. The 1st sentence is stressed at following words:

A. difficult, hotel, friends, ski



B. had, sharing, room, three

C. sharing, hotel, friends, trip

2. The 2nd sentence is stressed at following words:

A. problem, clean, sleep, party



B. problem, clean, good, preferred

C. problem, like, sleep, time

QUIZ SHOW

3. The 3rd sentence is stressed at following words:

A. tried to go, bed, playing, music, beer



B. tried, bed, playing loud music, beer

C. tried, bed, playing, drinking beer

QUIZ SHOW

4. The 4th sentence is stressed at following words:

A. end, headache, pay extra, messy



B. end, trip, headache, forced to pay, messy

C. trip, headache, forced, messy

5. The 5th sentence is stressed at following words:

A. never, those friends



B. needless, never

C. never, trip, friends

RHYTHM

The tendency to pronounce stressed syllables in a sentence at more or less equal intervals of time.

Eg: Walk down the path to the end of the canal.

Stress-timed rhythm: stressed syllables will tend to occur at relatively regular intervals whether they are separated by unstressed syllables or not.

Syllable-timed rhythm: all syllables, whether stressed or unstressed, tend to occur at regular time intervals.

Illustrations: Twinkle, little star.

Ọ ề thẳng què đánh đu; thẳng cu nhảy dù; thẳng mù bắn súng...

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