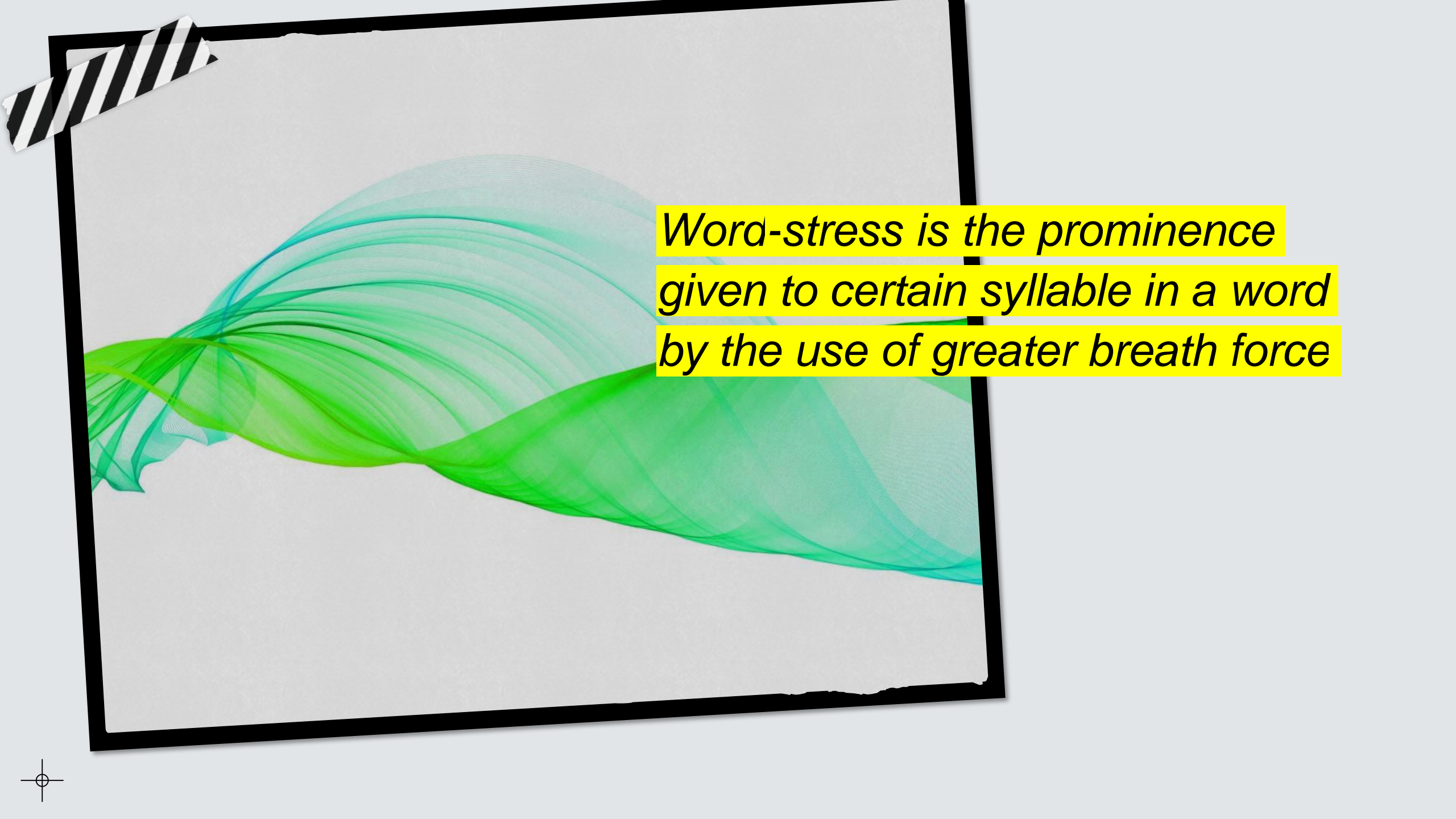


# *WORD STRESS*





*Word-stress is the prominence given to certain syllable in a word by the use of greater breath force*





- The prominence can be produced by one or all of the following four factors: a-loudness, b-length, c-pitch and d-quality
- Generally, these four factors work together in combination, though syllables may sometimes be made prominent by means of only one or two of them

# LEVELS OF STRESS

- Three levels of stress may be identified: a-tonic strong indicated by the sign (!) put before the stressed syllable, b-non-tonic strong indicated by (,) and c-unstressed
- One example is representation /repri:zen!teɪfən/





# PLACEMENT OF STRESS WITHIN SIMPLE WORDS

Word-stress is the stress placed on a given syllable in a word

- Whether the word is morphological simple, or whether it is complex as a result of containing one or more affixes or of being compound words
- The grammatical category to which the word belongs
- The number of syllables in the word
- The phonological structure of those syllables

*Placement of Stress within  
Two-syllable words*



# Verbs

□ The basic rule is that if the second syllable of the verb contains a long vowel or a diphthong, or if it ends with more than one consonant, that **second syllable is stressed**.

e.g. a'pply, a'rrive, a'ttract, a'ssist

□ If the final syllable contains a short vowel and one (or no) final consonant, **the first syllable is stressed**.

e.g. 'enter, 'envy, 'open, 'equal

□ **A final syllable is also unstressed if it contains /oʊ/** (e.g. 'follow, 'borrow). Most two syllable verbs that seem to be exceptions to the above might be interpreted as being morphologically complex (e.g. per'mit), or we could simply list all such verbs as exceptions.



# Adjectives

- ❑ Two-syllable simple adjectives are stressed according to the same rule

**E.g.:** 'lovely, di'vine

- ❑ As with most stress rule, there are exceptions,

E.g.: 'honest, 'perfect,

→ both of which end with two consonants but are stressed on the first syllable.





# Nouns

- Nouns require a different rule:
  - if the second syllable contains a short vowel the stress will usually come on the first syllable

E.g.: 'product , ba'lloon

- Otherwise, it will be on the second syllable
- Other two-syllable words such as adverbs and prepositions seem to behave like verbs and adjectives



## *Placement of stress within three-syllable words*

In verbs, if the last syllable contains a short vowel and ends with not more than one consonant, that syllable will be unstressed, and stress will be placed on the preceding syllable

E.g.: en'**counter**, de'**termine**

If the final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong, or ends with more than one consonant, that final syllable will be stressed.

E.g.: enter'**tain**, resur'**rect**



# Placement of stress within three-syllable words

If the final syllable contains a short vowel or *ou*, it is unstressed; if the syllable preceding this final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong, or if it ends with more than one consonant, *that middle syllable will be stressed*.

e.g.: mi'**m**osa, dis'**a**ster, po'**t**ato, sy'**n**opsis

If the final syllable contains a short vowel and the middle syllable contains a short vowel and ends with not more than one consonant, both final and middle syllables are unstressed and *the first syllable is stressed*,

e.g.: '**q**uantity, '**c**inema, '**e**mperor, '**c**ustody



# Placement of stress within three-syllable words

## □ Three-syllable simple nouns

- If the final syllable is of this type, the stress will usually be placed on the first syllable. The last syllable is usually quite prominent so that in some cases it could be said to have secondary stress.

E.g.: 'intellect

□ **Adjectives** seem to need the same rule, to produce stress patterns such as:

E.g.: 'opportune, 'derelict, 'insolent, 'anthrop



# PLACEMENT OF STRESS WITHIN COMPLEX

## WORDS

❑ Complex words are words made from a basic stem word with the addition of an affix,

E.g.: teacher, irregular, goodness.

❑ Affixes will have one of three possible effects on word stress:

**a-**The affix itself receives the primary stress:

E.g.: semi- + **'circle** → **'semicircle**; -ality + **'person** → **person'ality**.

**b-**The word is stressed just as if the affix was not there:

E.g.: un- + **'pleasant** → **un'pleasant**; **'market** + -ing → **'marketing**

**c-**The stress remains on the stem, not the affix, but is shifted to a different syllable

E.g.: **'magnet** + -ic → **mag'netic**



# Suffixes

*Suffixes carrying primary stress themselves*

Suffixes	Examples
<b>-ain</b>	enter'tain, ascer'tain
<b>-ee</b>	refug'ee, evacu'ee
<b>-eer,</b>	mountain'eer, volun'teer
<b>-ese, -ette</b>	Portugu'ese, journa'lese, ciga'rette, launde'rette
<b>-esque,-ique</b>	pictu'resque, u'nique



# Suffixes

## *Suffixes that do not affect stress placement*

Suffixes	Examples
<b>-able</b>	<b>ˈcomfort</b> – <b>ˈcomfortable</b> , <b>reˈcover</b> – <b>reˈcoverable</b>
<b>-age</b>	<b>ˈanchor</b> – <b>ˈanchorage</b>
<b>-al</b>	<b>reˈfuse</b> – <b>reˈfus-al</b>
<b>-en</b>	<b>wide</b> – <b>ˈwiden</b>
<b>-ful</b>	<b>ˈwonder</b> – <b>ˈwonderful</b>
<b>-ing</b>	<b>aˈmaze</b> – <b>aˈmazing</b>
<b>-ish</b>	<b>ˈdevil</b> – <b>ˈdevilish</b>
<b>-like</b>	<b>bird</b> – <b>ˈbirdlike</b>
<b>-less</b>	<b>ˈpower</b> – <b>ˈpowerless</b>
<b>-ly</b>	<b>ˈhurried</b> – <b>ˈhurriedly</b>
<b>-ment</b>	<b>ˈpunish</b> – <b>ˈpunishment</b>



# Suffixes

*Suffixes that do not affect stress placement*

<b>-ness</b>	<b>'yellow – 'yellowness</b>
<b>-ous</b>	<b>'poison – 'poisonous</b>
<b>-fy</b>	<b>'glory – 'glorify</b>
<b>-wise</b>	<b>'other – 'otherwise</b>
<b>-y</b>	<b>fun – 'funny</b>





# Suffixes

*Suffixes that influence stress in the stem*

Suffixes	Examples
<b>-eous</b>	ad' <b>v</b> antage – advan' <b>t</b> ageous
<b>-graphy</b>	' <b>p</b> hoto – pho' <b>t</b> ography
<b>-ial</b>	' <b>p</b> roverb – pro' <b>v</b> erbial
<b>-ic</b>	' <b>c</b> limate – cli' <b>m</b> atic
<b>-ious</b>	' <b>i</b> njure – in' <b>j</b> urious
<b>-ty</b>	' <b>t</b> ransquial – trans' <b>q</b> uiality
<b>-ive</b>	' <b>r</b> eflex – re' <b>f</b> lexive



## WORDS

- There are total 17 rules

**Rule 1:** Two syllable words of which the first syllable is a prefix not having a distinct meaning of its own are generally stressed on the second syllable.

e.g. a'way, ab'surd, ad'dress, a'llow, a'ppeal, a'rrive, a'scent, be'come, co'llapse, com'pose, co'rrect,

There are a great many exceptions such as *abscess*, *absence*, *accent*...

**Rule 2:** Most two-syllable words without prefixes are stressed on the first syllable, and in particular those with the following ending: -ace, -ad,-age, -ain, -al, -am, -an, -ance, - and, -ant, -ar, -ard, -ast, -ate, -ed, -edge,-ege, -el, -en, -ence, -ent, -er, -et, -ey, -ice, -id, -idge, -il, -ile, -in, -ine, -ing, -ip, -ise, -ish, -ist, -it, -ite, -ix, -le, -ode, -ol, -on, -or, -ot,-our, -ous, -ow,-re preceded by a consonant.

e.g. 'furnace, 'ballad, 'luggage, 'mountain, 'metal



**WORDS**

**Rule 3:** Three syllable words beginning with a monosyllabic prefix are generally stressed on the second syllable.

E.g.: a'ccomplish, a'djacent, a'pparel, a'ppendage, a'pprentice, a'ssemble, con'sider, di'minish, dis'figure, dis'hearten, dis'turbance.

**Rule 4:** In three syllable words not beginning with a prefix the stress generally is on the first syllable, and in particular when the word has one of the following endings: -ace, -age, -ain, -al, -an, -ance, -ant, -ar, -ege, -el, -en, -ence, -ent, -er, -et, -ice, -id, -il, -ish, it, -le.

E.g.: 'populace, 'average, 'chamberlain, 'cannibal, 'pelican, 'vigilance, 'dominant, 'vinegar, 'privilege, 'sentinel



WORDS

- **Rule 5:** Three syllable words ending in –able, -acle, ible, -icle, -ile, -ine, -ise, -ite, - ible, -ule, -ute, -ycle, -yte are stressed on the first syllable whether they begin with a prefix or not.

E.g.: . 'parable, 'obstacle, 'possible, 'article, 'mercantile, 'projectile, 'discipline, 'columbine, 'submarine...

**Rule 6:** Words of three or more syllables ending in –cy, -gy, -my, -ny (excluding words of four or more syllables ending in –mony) –phy, -py, -try, -sy, -ty, and –ous are stressed on the last syllable but two.

E.g.: . aris'tocracy, 'lethargy, gene'ology, as'tronomy, 'calumny, ma'hogany, 'atrophy,  
pho'tography



# DANIEL JONES' RULES OF STRESS PLACEMENT WITHIN SIMPLE AND COMPLEX

## WORDS

- There are total 17 rules

**Rule 7:** Words of three or more syllables ending in –ate, -form, -rr, ize (-ise), -ogue, -ude are stressed on the last syllable but two.

E.g.: 'devastate, cer'tificate, 'uniform, per'sonify, physi'ologist, mo'nopolise, 'catalogue, so'llicitude

**Rule 8:** Words of four or more syllables ending in –ance, -ant, -ence, -ent are stressed on the last syllable but one when the termination is preceded by two or more consecutive consonant letters, but on the last syllable but two in other cases.

E.g.: ex'travagance, equi'distant, i'tinerant, conva'lescence, cir'cumference, corres'pondent.

**Rule 9:** Words of four or more syllables ending in –sm (the m counting as a syllable) are generally stressed on the last syllable but three.

E.g.: en'thusiasm, Ca'tholicism.



## WORDS

- There are total 17 rules

**Rule 10: Words of four or more syllables ending in -able, but which are not formed from other words, are stressed on the last syllables but three.**

E.g.: inde'fatigable, a'bominable, 'amicable

**Rule 11: Words of four or more syllables ending in -ible are stressed (i) on the last syllable but two or more consecutive consonant letters, but (ii) on the last syllable but three in other cases.**

E.g.: per'ceptible, res'ponsible, 'eligible, 'corrigible

**Rule 12: Words of four or more syllables ending in -ry are generally stressed on the last syllable but three.**

E.g.: 'ceremony, 'testimony



## WORDS

- There are total 17 rules

**Rule 13: Words of four or more syllables ending in –ry are generally stressed on the last syllable but three**

E.g.: 'adversary, 'promontory, de'rogatory

**Rule 14: Words ending in –able which are formed from other words, take the stress of the words from which they are formed.**

E.g.: con'siderable, 'measurable, a'ttainable

**Rule 15: Most words ending in ade, -ee, -eme, -ene, -esce, -esque, -ette, -ier (not including substantives formed from verbs in –y, e.g. copier from copy), -oo, -oon, and two syllable words ending in –use, -ute are stressed on the last syllable.**

E.g.: cas'cade, prome'nade, les'see, refe'ree



# DANIEL JONES' RULES OF STRESS PLACEMENT WITHIN SIMPLE AND COMPLEX

## WORDS

- There are total 17 rules

**Rule 16:** Words formed by the addition of –dom, -er, -ess, -ful, -hood, -ish, -less, -ly, -ment, -monger, -most, -ness, -or, -ship, -some, -ture, -ward(s), -ways, -what, -wise, to other words take the stress of the words from which they are formed. So also with the verbal terminations –ed, -es, -ing and the plural termination –es.

E.g.: . 'Christendom, 'foreigner, manu'facturer, fre'quenter, 'shepherdess, 'wonderful, 'brotherhood, 'yellowish, re'morseless

**Rule 17:** Words ending in –iac, -ial, -ian, -iance, -iant, -iary, -ic, -ical, -ience, -iency, -ient, -ion, -ior, -ior, -ious, -um, -acal, -eous, -ocal, -ual are stressed on the syllable immediately preceding the termination.

E.g.: am'moniac, ju'dicia

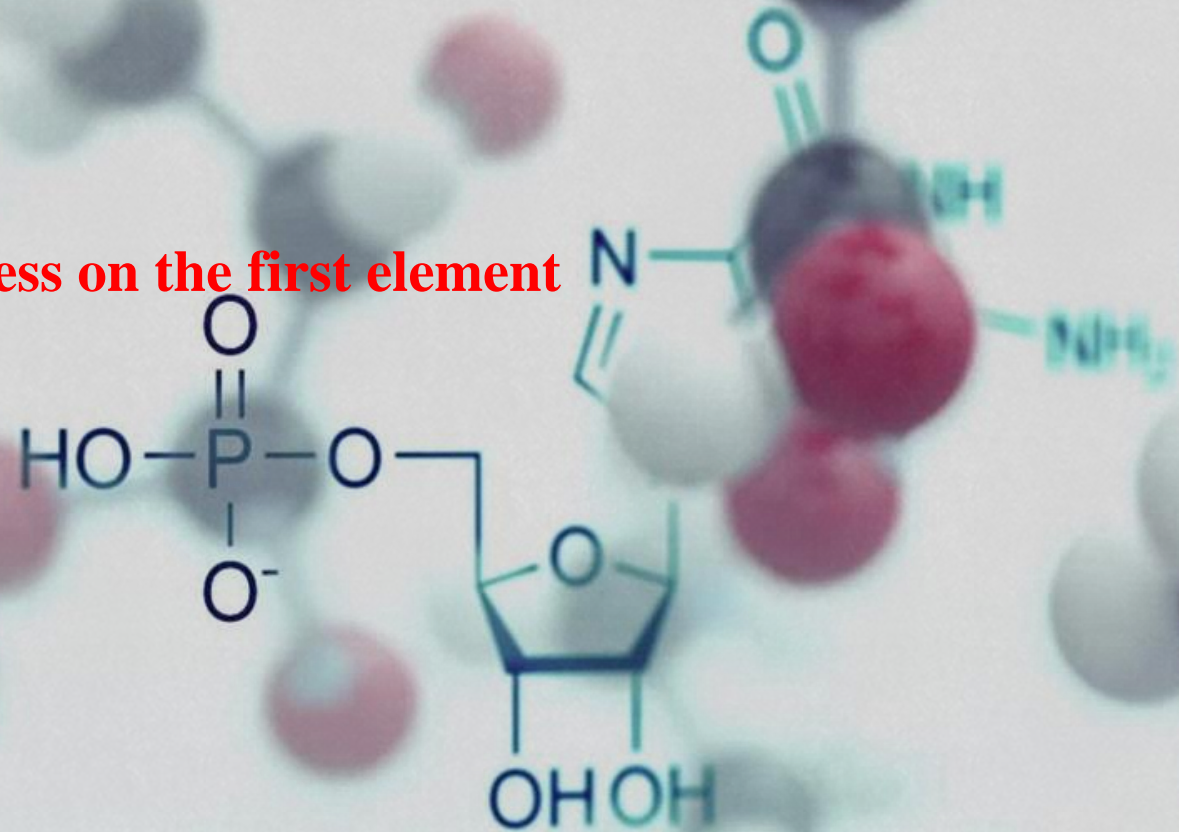


*PLACEMENT OF  
STRESS WITHIN  
COMPOUND WORDS*



# *N+N Compounds*

**Noun+Noun compounds normally have the stress on the first element**



# *Adj. + -ed morpheme compounds*

- Compounds with an adjectival first element and the -ed morpheme at the end receive stress on the second element

E.g.: bad-<sup>1</sup>tempered, half-<sup>1</sup>timbered,  
heavy-<sup>1</sup>handed



# Periodic Table of the Elements *Number+Noun compounds*

Atomic Number → 1  
Symbol ← H  
Name → Hydrogen  
Atomic Weight ← 1.008

4 IVB	5 VB	6 VIB	7 VIIIB	8 VIIIB	9 VIIIB	10 VIIIB	11 IB	12 IIB	13 IIIA	14 IVA	15 VA
22 Ti Titanium 78.67	23 V Vanadium 50.9415	24 Cr Chromium 51.9961	25 Mn Manganese 54.938044	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.933194	28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.38	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.630	33 As Arsenic 74.921595
40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.90637	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.95	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.90550	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.8682	48 Cd Cadmium 112.414	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.710	51 Sb Antimony 121.760
71 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.94788	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.217	78 Pt Platinum 195.084	79 Au Gold 196.966569	80 Hg Mercury 200.592	81 Tl Thallium 204.38	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.98040
101 Db Dubnium (268)	106 Sg Seaborgium (269)	107 Bh Bohrium (270)	108 Hs Hassium (269)	109 Mt Meitnerium (278)	110 Ds Darmstadtium (281)	111 Rg Roentgenium (282)	112 Cn Copernicium (285)	113 Nh Nihonium (286)	114 Fl Flerovium (289)	115 Mc Moscovium (289)	116 Lv Livermorium (293)
59 Pr Praseodymium 140.90766	60 Nd Neodymium 144.242	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.92535	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.500	67 Ho Holmium 164.93033	68 Er Erbium 167.259	69 Tm Thulium 168.93422	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.054
91 Pa Protactinium 231.03588	92 U Uranium 238.02891	93 Np Neptunium (237)	94 Pu Plutonium (244)	95 Am Americium (243)	96 Cm Curium (247)	97 Bk Berkelium (247)	98 Cf Californium (251)	99 Es Einsteinium (252)	100 Fm Fermium (257)	101 Md Mendelevium (258)	102 No Nobelium (259)

- Compounds in which the first element is a number also tend to have final stress

E.g.: three-'wheeler, second-'class, five-'finger



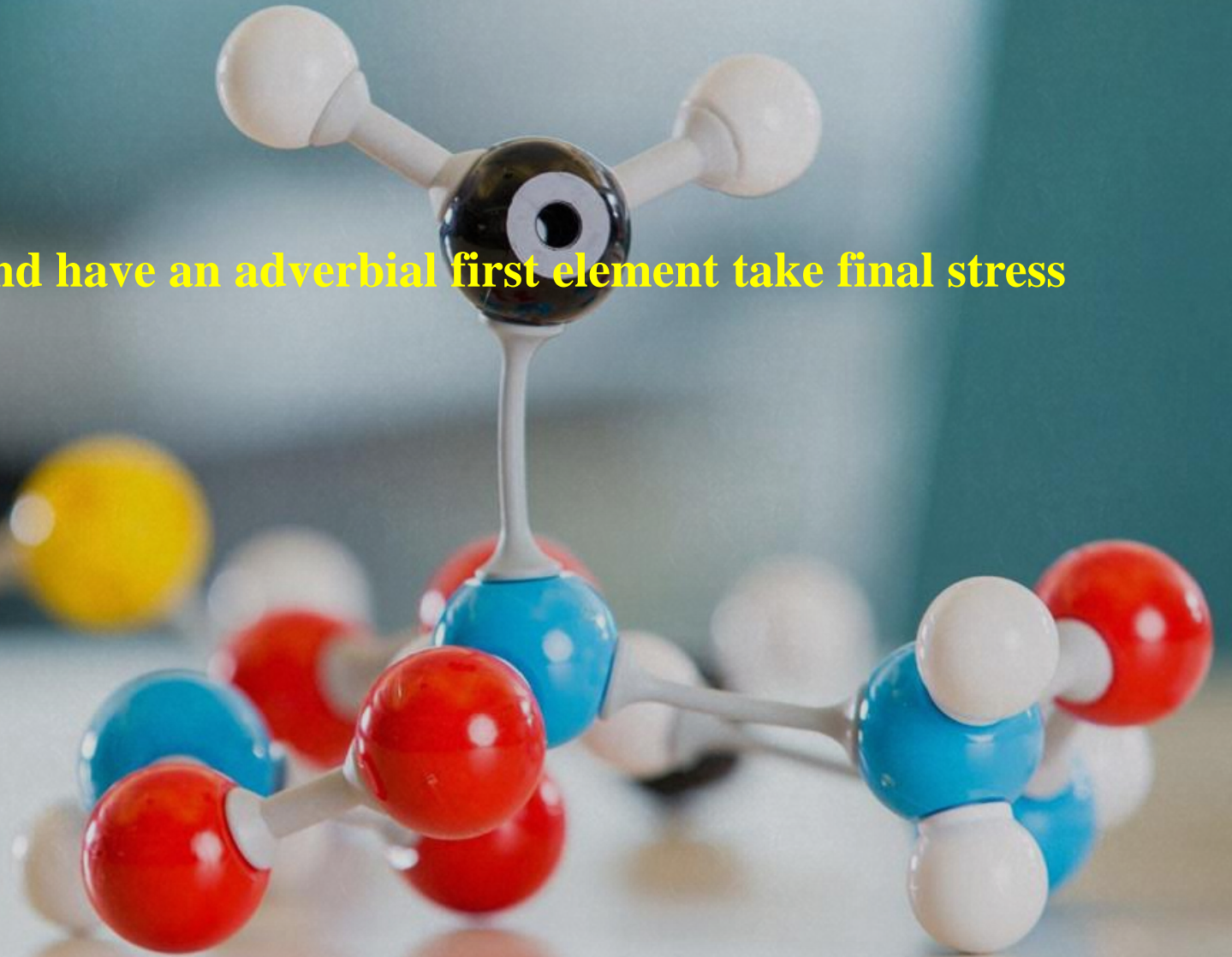
# *Compounds functioning as adverbs*

**Compounds functioning as adverbs are usually final-stressed**



# *Compounds functioning as verbs*

**Compounds functioning as verbs and have an adverbial first element take final stress**





# *VARIABLE STRESS*

- 'Ice-scream- ice-'cream
- 'Kilometer-ki'lometer



# WORD-CLASS PAIRS

- There are several dozen pairs of two-syllable words with identical spelling which differ from each other in stress placement, apparently according to word class
- All appear to consist of prefix + stem
- The stress will be placed on the first syllable of the word if it is a noun or an adjective and on the second syllable if it is a verb





*DIFFERENCES  
BETWEEN BRITISH  
ENGLISH AND  
AMERICAN ENGLISH IN  
WORD-STRESS  
LOCATION*



# French stress

For many loanwords from French where **AmE** has final-syllable stress, **BrE** stresses an earlier syllable

❑ **BrE** first-syllable stress:

**E.g.:** adult,, ballet, baton, beret, bidet, blasé, brevet, brochure, buffet, café, canard,

❑ **BrE** second-syllable stress:

**E.g.:** attaché, consommé, décolleté, déclassé, De Beauvoir, Debussy, démodé,

❑ **AmE** first-syllable, **BrE** last-syllable:

**E.g.:** address (postal), moustache; cigarette, limousine, magazine,

❑ **AmE** first-syllable, **BrE** second-syllable:

**E.g.:** liaison, macramé, Renaissance (AmE also final-syllable stress)

❑ **AmE** second-syllable, **BrE** last-syllable:

**E.g.:** *New Orleans*



# *-ate and -atory*

Most 2-syllable verbs ending -ate have first-syllable stress in AmE and second-syllable stress in BrE

This includes castrate, dictate, donate, locate, mandate, migrate, placate, prostrate, pulsate, rotate, serrate,, spectate, striated, translate, vacate, vibrate; in the case of cremate, narrate, placate, the first vowel is in addition reduced to /ə/ in BrE

Examples where AmE and BrE match include create, debate, equate, elate, negate, orate, relate with second-syllable stress ; and mandate and probate with first-syllable stress



# *Miscellaneous stress*

There are a number of cases where same-spelled noun, verb and/or adjective have uniform stress in one dialect but distinct stress in the other : The following table lists words where the only difference between AmE and BrE is in stress

Words with other points of difference are listed in another table





BrE	AmE	words with relevant syllable stressed in each dialect
1st	2nd	caffeine, cannot, casein, Kathleen, Suez, communal, escalope', harass, omega, paprika', patina, subaltern, stalactite, stalagmite, Thanksgiving', transference, aristocrat', kilometer / kilometer
2nd	1st	defense (sport), guffaw, ice cream', guru, mama, papa, pretense, princess', weekend, Canton, angina, Augustine, Bushido, Ghanaian, Lofoten, marshmallow, patronal, spread-eagle, controversy, formidable, hospitable', miscellany, predicative, saxophonist, submariner, ancillary, capillary, catenary, corollary, fritillary, medullary, advertisement
1st	3rd	premature, opportune
3rd	1st	margarine, Pyrenees, cockatoo
3rd	2nd	arytenoid, oregano, obscurantist



A close-up photograph of a bouquet of flowers. The bouquet features several large, light pink roses, clusters of small purple flowers, and sprigs of small yellow flowers. A white card with the words "Thank you!" written in a black cursive font is tucked into the center of the bouquet. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. In the top-left corner, there is a black and white striped graphic element. In the bottom-left corner, there is a small black crosshair symbol.

Thank  
you!