

Teacher's Copy

English Pronunciation: Stress and Rhythm

What is word stress?

English words have stress patterns and can be pronounced in different ways. The way words are pronounced gives meaning. If words are pronounced incorrectly it can be difficult to understand what the speaker is saying.

- 1) Part of correct spelling: sometimes stress. We can show stress by underlining.

backpack

backpack

abackpack

2) We can show stress by using a large 0 on stressed syllables and small o on unstressed syllables:

0 o
backpack

0 o
backpack

0 o
abackpack

3. Say the following words a few times and show where the stress is in the word:

company

steady

English

office

apple

How many syllables do these words have? _____

4. Look at these three-syllable words. Say them and show where the stress is:

argument

excuse

humbly

improve

justice

5. Think of the name of 5 international cities. Write them and show where the stress is.
Example: London

- 6) Sentences also have stressed words and syllables. Strong and weak syllables together in a sentence create rhythm.

Examples of rhythm:

- It is for Jack, with spots on his back, who lives in the water, and always says, quack.

7. Listen to the following poem, and indicate the stressed words or syllables: