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The Terminations of -ian, -ial, -iar (—)

Like words ending in -ion are stressed on the next to the last syllable. Ex. pe'culiar /pi-'kju:liə/, ci'vilian /si'-vi-ljən/. Other examples: co'mmercial, fa'miliar, i'talian, lib'rarian, o'fficial, phy'sician, pro'vincial, resi'dential, vege'tarian.

Words Ending in -ade (—)

These words are stressed on the last syllable. Ex. per'suade /pəsweid/, barri'cade, lemo'nade, pa'rade.

Some important exceptions which have the stress on their first syllable are: 'accolad, centigrade, 'decade, 'comrade.

The Terminations of -ic and -ics (—)

As we have noticed, the words ending in -ic or -ics are usually stressed on the next to last syllable. Ex. Photo'genic /fəu-tə-'dʒe-nik/. But there are some important exceptions. Ex. 'Arabic, a'rithmetic, 'catholic, 'heretic, 'politics.

Note that the derivatives of these words are irregular: a'rithmetic, but arith'metical, arith'metically, 'politics, but po'litically, etc.

The Termination of -ous (—)

Words ending in -ous keep their stress before the next to the last syllable. Ex. ri'diculous, am'biguous, 'fabulous, 'generous, 'hazardous, mo'notonous, pros'perous, sy'nonymous, u'nanimous. Exceptions are: di'sastrous, e'normous, tre'mendous.

Finally, I finish the first part of this study by referring to the last terminations of -it and -ish (—). In these words, the stress remains on the next to last syllable (—). Ex. dis'tinguish /dis.'tin.gwiʃ/. Other examples: as'tonish, 'furnish, in'habit, pro'hibit.

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The Termination of -ism

First, we should note that -ism is pronounced with two syllables. The words ending in -ism are stressed just like the words from which they are derived. Ex. 'national → 'nationalism. One exception is: 'catholic → ca'tholism. Second, we should also note the stress of some words, which are not derived from any other word: me'tabolism. Some other examples are: a'nachromism, 'cimmunism, fa'naticism, 'socialism, 'vandalism.

The Terminations of -ology and -ologist (—)

The words ending in -ology and -ologist are stressed on the first 'o' of the termination. Ex. e'cologist /i.'ka-lə-dʒɪst/. Other examples are: a'pology, arche'ology, bi'ologist, metho'dology, psy'chologist.

The Terminations of -less and -ness

The words ending in -less or -ness preserve the stress of their base word. Ex. 'hope, 'hopeless. Other examples: 'care, 'careless, 'child, 'childless, 'help, 'helpless, 'happy, 'happiness, 'kind, 'kindness, 'penny, 'penniless, 'power, 'powerless, 'rude, 'rudeness.

The Terminations of -ity and -ety (—)

Words ending in -ity and -ety are stressed on before the next to last syllable. Ex. university /ju:ni.'vɜ:s'ti/. Other examples: e'ternity, hu'manity, in'tensity, na'jority, super'iority, va'riety, vi'tality.

The Termination of -eer (..—)

Words ending in -eer are stressed on the last syllable. Ex. ca'reer /kə.'riə/ (..—). Exception: 'overseer. Other examples: auctio'neer, engi'neer, mountai'neer, volun'teer.

The Termination of -ee (..—)

Words ending in -ee are stressed on the last syllable. Ex. de'gree /di.'gri/, refu'gee /re.fju:.'dʒi:/. Other examples: emplo'jee, guaran'tee, refe'ree, ...

The Terminations of -itude and -itive (—)

Words ending in -itude and -itive are stressed before the next to the last syllable. Ex. 'gratitude /'græ.ti.tju:d/. Other examples: 'attitude, com'petitive, 'fortitude, in'finitive, 'longitude, re'petitive.

Ex. 'fascinate /fæ.si.neit/. Exceptions are: al'ternate (adj), i'mmediate.

For words ending in -ator no additional syllable is considered. Ex. 'raidiate /rei.di.eit/, radiator. Other examples are: ac'celerator, 'calculator, 'commentator, in'vestigator, 'navigator, ne'gotiator.

Words Ending in -oo and -oon (..-)

These words are stressed on the last syllable. Ex. sham'poo /sham.'pu/. Principal exceptions are: 'cuckoo /'kuku/ and 'igloo /iglu:/. Other examples are: car'toon, kanga'roo, mon'soon, ty'phoon.

The Termination of -ese (..-)

Words ending in -ese have variable stress. Whether they are used alone or in final position, they are stressed on the last syllable (..-). Ex. He's Chi'nese. If they are followed by a stressed syllable, the stress is put on the first syllable. Ex. a 'Chinese take-away. Most of these words are of the adjectives of nationality:

'Portuguese leather, Bur'mese, a 'Chinese girl, manga'nese, a 'cantonese restaurant, a 'Burmese cat, Vietna'mese, a 'Japanese camera.

Certain words of two syllables are sometimes both verbs and nouns. When they are used as verbs, the stress is put on the second syllable. Ex. to re'cord (..- verb), but when they are used as nouns, the stress falls on the first. Ex. a 'record (..- noun). Other examples: accent, contract, desert, export, insult, object, permit, produce, protest, survey. A few exceptions: an a'ccount, to a'ccount, a 'comment, to 'comment, dis'tress, to dis'tress.

The Terminations of Words in -ography and -ographer (..-)

The words ending in -ography and -ographer are stressed on the syllable that contains the letter o of the termination, that is, next to last syllable. Ex. pho'tography /fə.'to.gra.fi/.

The Terminations of the Compound Adjectives

The compound adjectives take their principal stress on the first element and the secondary stress on the second: 'carsick, 'suntanned, 'waterproof. Nevertheless, certain compound adjectives take up their stress in reverse order: 'bad-'tempered, 'dark-'blue, 'good-'looking, 'home-'made, 'orer-'weight, 'sea-'green, 'user-'friendly.

Note that when a compound adjective is followed by a noun, the principal stress is always on the first element. Ex. 'hard-'boiled, but a 'hard-boiled egg.

Let us begin our study with one of the most frequent terminations: -ion.

The Words Ending in -ion (.-.)

These words are stressed on the next to last syllable (.-.), that is, the syllable which precedes -ion. Ex. intention /in.'ten.shən/. If suffixes -al or -ally are added to these words, the place of the word stress does not change. Ex. intentional(ly). Other examples: accomo'dation, ad'dition(al), appre'hension, 'champion, conver'sation, di'mension, edu'cation, 'emotion, hesi'tation, infor'mation, sen'sation.

Words Ending in -ic and -ics (.-.)

Just as the words' termination in -ion the words ending in -ic or -ics are stressed on the next to last syllable (.-.). Ex. photogenic /fəutəu'dʒenik/. These words do not change their stress either if -al or -ally are added to them. Other examples are: at'lantic, auto'matic, democ'ratic, eco'nomic, e'lectric, diplo'matic, do'mestic, fan'tastic, mathe'matics, 'musical, te'rrific, theo'retically.

Words Ending in -ette (..-)

Words' terminations in -ette are stressed on the last syllable (..-). Ex. ciga'rette /sigə.'ret/. Other examples are: cas'sete, kitche'nette, launde'rette, serv'iette, ushe'rette. Two exceptions are: 'etiquette, 'omelette. The Americans tend to put stress on the first. Therefore, we can find the above words as: 'cigarette, 'kitchenette....

Words Ending in -ize and -ise (---)

For words of two syllable, the stress is put on the last syllable. Ex. ad'vise /əd'vaiz/.

For words of three or more syllables, the stress is put on the before next to last syllable (---). Ex. a'pologise /a'po.lo.gize/. The following two words are exceptions: 'characterize, 'liberalize. Other examples are: 'Authorize, 'civilize, 'colonize, Euro'peanize, 'improvise, mo'nopolise, 'organise, 'realise, 'subsidize.

Words Ending in -ate and -ator

For the two syllabic words ending in -ate, the verbs are stressed on the termination. Ex. to de'flate /di:'fleit/. The other words are stressed on the first syllable. Ex. 'private /'prai.vit/. 'senate /'se.nit/. Words of three or more syllables ending in -ate are all stressed on the before next to last syllable (---).

In the field of my teaching¹, I sometimes bump into the students who seem to be interested in learning English as their second language: they usually bring up questions concerning the place of the appropriate stresses of words or their correct pronunciation. Although there are many books written on sound patterns and phonology, they need something easier and more practical. Dictionaries, particularly pronunciation dictionaries or monolingual English dictionaries, which are now available on the market, can be of great help; nevertheless, they hesitate about which one to buy and how to use it.

The students' enthusiasm about the above subjects, made me make an attempt to study and research, though not very deeply and thoroughly, on the stress of words. It should be noted that this study is essentially prepared for the Basic English learners, that is, the students keeping up a low standard of English.

In the course of this study, I have generally used Dr. Claude Caillate's useful book, the associate professor of English at the Sorbonne university, entitled *La Pratique Courante de l'Anglais*, written in collaboration with Pierre Nordon and Judith Ward. Therefore, the following study is mostly a translation of some parts of the above helpful book.

I have divided this translation into two sections: At first, the stress of words individually, and then, in the sentence will be presented successively.

The word stress is defined as "The loudness given to a particular syllable in a word"². In addition to this definition, it is also mentioned that if you are not able to discriminate between the stressed syllable in each word automatically, "try saying the word aloud holding different syllables in turn for slightly longer than the others. A syllable which can be drawn out longer than the others without the word sounding very peculiar is probably a syllable on which the stress falls."³ This rule, of course, will not always do. It is not only sure, but also probable. In order to mark the stress of words more precisely the following regulations are of overriding importance.

Note that we try to indicate the stress of the last three syllables according to the following divisions:

Stress on the last syllable (.._)

Stress on the next to last syllable (._.)

Stress on before the next to last syllable (._..)

1) General English (GE) and English for Special Purposes (ESP).

2) M. Varzegar, 1971, p. 35.

3) J. Thornborrow and S. Wareing, 1998, p. 33.

The Stress of Words in English

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Abstract

The following article comprises certain rules concerning the stress of words in English language.

Due to the user-friendly arrangement of words under various categories, it can be of interest not only for the students of basic English, but also for those whose main concern is that it is difficult to learn the stress of words so easily.

In the course of this study, an attempt has been made to consider first the stress of words in every multisyllabic word, presented in this article, and then in sentences, in another article. To this end, our special attention has been paid to the selection of an easy way as far as possible

چکیده

یادداشت زیر حاوی قواعدی است مربوط به تکیه کلمات در جهت رفع مشکل تلفظ که نه تنها می‌تواند مورد استفاده دانشجویانی که به فراگیری مقدمات زبان انگلیسی همت می‌ورزند قرار گیرد بلکه، به جهت ارائه قواعد کلی، می‌تواند همچنان برای کلیه زبان‌آموزان انگلیسی کمک مؤثری به شمار آید.

در این مطالعه سعی شده است تکیه کلمات در تک تک واژه‌های چند سیلابی، ابتدا در یک مقاله، سپس در جملات و در مقاله‌ای دیگر، بررسی شود. نویسنده بر آن بوده است که در این کار تا حد امکان راه ساده‌تر و عملی‌تر را برگزیند و به خوانندگان تقدیم دارد.