

## UNIT ONE: WORD STRESS

### LESSON 05: STRESS PLACEMENT IN COMPOUND WORDS

Compound words are formed from a combination of two or more elements that constitutes on semantic unit. There are three types of compound words in English as follows:

- **Use of hyphen:** Good-hearted, life-saver, one-way, well-done, part-time.
- **Closed compounds:** Armchair, postman, teapot, crossword, goodwill.
- **Open compounds:** Cassette recorder, coffee machine, phone call, ice age.

#### 1. Stress in compound words composed of two nouns or gerund + noun

➤ Compound words composed of **two nouns** usually receive stress on the first element.

**E.g:** Airplane /'eəpleɪn/; Deadline /'dedlaɪn/; classroom /'klɑ:sru:m/ Home-builder /'həʊsm  
 ,bɪld ə/, rock-climber /'rɒk,klaɪmə/, Air conditioner /'eə kən,dɪʃnə/

**Exceptions:** headmaster

week-end

mankind

**Activity:** transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Air-raid		Backache	
Clothes brush		Earthquake	
Tea cup		Button hole	
Copyright		Shopkeeper	
Waiting-room		Dining -room	
Cleaning cloth		Shopping- bag	

#### 2. Stress in compound words composed of adjective and 'ed'

➤ Compound words composed of an **adjective and 'ed'** morpheme at the end receive stress on the second element.

**Activity:** transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	transcription	word	Transcription
Bad-tempered		Full-grown	
Well-educated		Heavy-hearted	
Barefooted		Blue-eyed	
Well-dressed		Long-sighted	

### 3. Stress in compound words composed of adjective and gerund

Compound words composed of an **adjective and a gerund** at the end receive stress on the second element

E.g: good- 'looking, easy- 'going, ,global 'warming, , central 'heating

### 4. Compounds in which the first element is a number: the second element is stressed

**Activity:** transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Three-wheeler		One-eyed	
Second class		Three cornered	

### 5. Compounds functioning as adverbs are usually finally stressed

E.g: ,North - 'east, down- 'stream, a ,bove- 'mentioned; ,good 'bye

### 6. Compounds which function as verbs and have an adverbial element first

- Compound words which function as **verbs** and have an adverbial element first take final stress.

e.g: ,ill- 'treat ,back- 'pedal, ,down- 'grade, ,upside 'down ,back- 'pedal ,look 'like, ,get 'through

**Activity:** transcribe the following compound adverbs and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Upstairs		Hereby	
Uphill		Outside	

### 7. Phrasal verbs are stressed on the second element

E.g: ,Let 'down ,take 'over ,turn 'off

But the same words can be used as nouns, in this case the first element is stressed like: 'make up 'take off

### 8- Compounds which include past participle + noun are stressed on the second element

E.g: lost property, in ,verted 'comma, split infinitive

### Homework: transcribe the following compound words

Greenhouse, backtrack, backache, blackberries, blueprint, bookstore, candlelight, daybreak, driveway, forehead, goodbye, somehow, superstructure, upcoming, upward, father-in-law, up-to-date, full-time worker, family-run business, , full grown boy, easy-going person, light-hearted companion.