

Lecture No. 2:

**WORD STRESS: Stress Placement in Complex Words**

**Introduction**

Up to this point, we have considered stress placement in **simple words** consisting of a single **stem**. In the following courses, we shall examine stress placement in **complex words**, which are of two types: words made from the basic stem word with an addition of an affix (prefix or suffix), and compound words which are made of two or more words.

\* **Affixes** have one of the three possibilities effects on word stress ( Roach, 1991, p.96):

- The affix itself receives the primary stress: **semicircle, chinese**
- The word is stressed just as if the affix was not there (the affix is neutral, it does not affect stress), e.g. un-, ing-, al-, ly-, ness-, less-...
- The stress remains on the stem, but shifts to another syllable ( ic-, ation-, ...)

**1. Stress assignment on prefixes (most of the prefixes do not receive stress)**

For example, in the words containing prefixes such as: **a-, ab-, an-, co-, de-, dis-, im-, in-, re-, un-** the primary stress mostly does not fall on the prefix but on one of the stem syllables (neutral prefixes)

Prefixes	Example words
<b>a-</b>	aside /ə'saɪd/, aback /ə'bæk/, apart /
<b>ab-</b>	abnormal /æb'nɔ:məl/, absolve /əb'zɒlv/
<b>an-</b>	anachronism /ə'næk'rɒnɪzəm/, another /ə'nʌðə/
<b>co-</b>	cooperative /kəʊ'ɒpə'reɪtɪv/, cohabit /kəʊ'hæbɪt/, coordinate /
<b>de-</b>	demotivate /di:'məʊtɪveɪt /, decode / di:'kəʊd/, deactivate /
<b>dis-</b>	dislike /dɪs'laɪk/, disagree /dɪsə'grɪ:/, dispatch /dɪ'spætʃ/, disable /
<b>im-</b>	impossible /ɪm'pɒsəbəl/, immortal /ɪ'mɔ:təl/, imprison /ɪm'prɪzən/, imbalance /
<b>in-</b>	intoxicate /ɪn'tɒksɪkeɪt/, invaluable /ɪn'væljuəbəl/, incorrect /
<b>re-</b>	resource /rɪ'zɔ:s/or /rɪ'sɔ:s/, reorder /ri:'ɔ:də/, rearrange /
<b>un-</b>	uncertain /ʌn'sɜ:tən/, Unfaithful /ʌn'feɪθfl/, unable /

**Exceptions:** impotent / /, impulse / /, impudent / /, infinite / /

**2. Stress assignment on suffixes**

Unlike prefixes, suffixes can either be neutral, receive stress or change stress placement from one syllable to another on the stem.

**2.1. Neutral suffixes**

For words containing stress-neutral suffixes, the stress does not shift to another syllable when these suffixes are added to the stem and they do not influence its pronunciation.

Suffixes that do not affect stress placement (neutral) are **able, age, al, dom, ern, ful, ing, ist, less, ly, ment, ness, ship, some, wise, ish, un, ous, fy, y, hood...**

neutral suffix	words
<b>able (adj)</b>	considerable /kən'sɪdərəbəl/, unavoidable /ʌnə'vɔɪdəbəl/, comfortable /
<b>age (adj)</b>	marriage /'mæɪrɪdʒ/, passage /'pæsɪdʒ/, orphanage /
<b>al (adj/n)</b>	actual / /, refusal / /, arrival / /
<b>dom (n)</b>	kingdom /'kɪŋdəm/, Wisdom /'wɪzdəm/, martyrdom /
<b>ern (adj)</b>	western /'westn/, eastern /'i:stən/, northern /'nɔ:ðən/, southern /
<b>ful (adj)</b>	sorrowful /'sɒrəʊfl/, beautiful /'bjʊ:tɪfl/, merciful /
<b>ing (gerund)</b>	educating /'edʒʊkeɪtɪŋ/, interesting /'ɪnt'restɪŋ/, consisting /
<b>ist (adj)</b>	journalist /'dʒɜ:nəlɪst/, physicist /'fɪzɪsɪst/, specialist /
<b>less (adj)</b>	bottomless /'bɒtəmləs/, defenseless /dɪ'fensləs/, penniless /
<b>ly (adv)</b>	apparently /ə'pærəntli/, rapidly /'ræpɪdli/, carelessly /
<b>ment (n)</b>	development /dɪ'veləpmənt/, accompaniment /
<b>ness (n)</b>	tenderness /'tendənəs/, greatness /'greɪtnəs/, quietness /
<b>ship (n)</b>	censorship /'sensəʃɪp/, dictatorship /dɪk'tetətʃɪp/, sponsorship /

<b>some</b>	<b>(adj)</b>	<u>adventur</u> some, quarrel <u>some</u> /'kwɔrɪsəm/, ventures <u>some</u> / /
<b>wise</b>	<b>(adj)</b>	other <u>wise</u> /'ʌðəwaɪz/, clock <u>wise</u> /'klɒkwaɪz/, corner <u>wise</u> / /
<b>un</b>	<b>(adj)</b>	unhappy / /, unsuccessful
<b>ous</b>	<b>(adj)</b>	dangerous / /
<b>y</b>	<b>(adj)</b>	funny / /
<b>hood</b>	<b>(n)</b>	brotherhood / /, neighbourhood / /

**Exceptions:** admirable, advertisement, reference, preferable, resident. (transcribe them)

## 2.2. Stress-carrying suffixes

The suffixes which attract the primary stress placement to the **final syllable** are also called *stress-attracting suffixes* or *stress-carrying suffixes*, which are summarized in the following rule:

**Rule:** the following suffixes carry the primary stress: **-aire, ee, eer, ese, -ette, esque, ique**

Suffixes	Examples for Transcription
<b>aire</b>	billion <u>aire</u> /bɪljə'neə/, million <u>aire</u> /mɪljə'neə/, question <u>naire</u> / /
<b>ee</b>	absent <u>ee</u> , refer <u>ee</u> ,
<b>eer</b>	engine <u>eer</u> /endʒɪ'niə/, volunt <u>eer</u> /vɒlə'ntriə/, mountaine <u>er</u> / /, pion <u>eer</u> / /
<b>ese</b>	Vietname <u>se</u> /vɪetnə'mi:z/, Portug <u>ese</u> /pɔ:tjʊ'gi:z, -tʃʊ-, Japan <u>ese</u> , Journale <u>se</u>
<b>ette</b>	silhou <u>ette</u> /sɪlu'et/, marion <u>ette</u> /mɑrɪə'net/, laund <u>erette</u> /lə:n'dret/, kitchen <u>ette</u>
<b>esque</b>	romanes <u>que</u> /rəʊmə'nesk/, pictur <u>esque</u> /pɪktʃə'resk/, arab <u>esque</u> / /
<b>ique</b>	critiqu <u>e</u> /krɪ'ti:k/, techniqu <u>e</u> /tek'ni:k/, un <u>ique</u> /ju:'ni:k/, boutiqu <u>e</u> / /

**Remark:** 'ade' 'oo' and 'oon) can be either endings or a suffixes; in both cases they receive stress, such as:

1. persuade /pə'sweɪd/, dissuade /dɪ'sweɪd/, blockade /
2. kangaroo /kæŋgə'ru:/, shampoo /ʃæm'pu:/, waterloo / /
3. typhoon /taɪ'fu:n/, balloon /bɔ:l'u:n/, buffoon / /

**Exceptions:** Igloo /'ɪglu:/, Cuckoo /'kʊku:/, decade /'dekeɪd/, comrade /'kɒmreɪd/, employee / /

## 2.3. Stress-shifting suffixes

Some suffixes cause a change of the primary stress from one syllable to another one on the stem; it either moves to the **penultimate** syllable **ante-penultimate**.

### 2.3.1. Suffixes causing penultimate stress

**Rule:** When the following suffixes are added to the stem, the primary stress shifts to the last syllable of the stem (or the penultimate syllable, the syllable preceding the suffix);

**Suffixes:** eous, graphy, ial, ual, ian, ient, ic, ible, logy, ion, ious, ty ive, meter.

**Examples:**

Suffix-ending	Examples for Transcription
<b>ic</b>	Athlet <u>ic</u> /æθ'letɪk/, econom <u>ic</u> /i:kə'nɒmɪk/ , graph <u>ic</u> /græfɪk/, geograph <u>ic</u> /dʒɪ:ə'gæfɪk/, philosoph <u>ic</u> /fɪlə'sɒfɪk/, psycholog <u>ic</u> /saɪkə'lɒdʒɪk/, spec <u>ific</u> /spə'sɪfɪk/, scient <u>ific</u> /saɪən'tɪfɪk/, syntact <u>ic</u> /sɪn'tæktɪk/, semiot <u>ics</u> /semi'ɒtɪks/ , theoret <u>ic</u> /θɪə'retɪk/, linguist <u>ics</u> /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks/, semant <u>ics</u> / /, phonet <u>ics</u> .
<b>ion</b>	telev <u>ision</u> /telɪ'vɪʒn/, rev <u>ision</u> /rɪ'vɪʒn/, el <u>ision</u> /ɪ'lɪʒn/, eros <u>ion</u> / /
<b>tion</b>	relat <u>ion</u> /rɪ'leɪʃn/, associat <u>ion</u> /ə,səʊsɪ'eɪʃn/, participat <u>ion</u> / /

**Transcribe the words below:**

**eous:** advantageous

**graphy:** photography

**ial:** commercial, financial

**ual:** intellectual

**ian:** politician

**ient:** efficient, sufficient

**ible:** flexible, impossible

**logy:** psychology, physiology

**ion:** perfection, interaction

**ious:** injurious, furious

**ty:** complexity, objectivity

**ive:** attractive, collective

**ic:** energetic, academic

**meter:** parameter, kilometer

**Most common exceptions:** arabic /'ærəbɪk/, arithmetic /ə'riθmətik/, arsenic /'ɑ:sənɪk/, Heretic /'herɪtɪk/, catholic /'kæθəlɪk/, lunatic /'lu:nətɪk/, politic /'pɒlɪtɪk/, rhetoric /'retərɪk/.

**2.3.2. The verbal suffix –ish causing Penultimate stress:**

This is a stress-shifting suffix found only in **verbs** (we can find the suffix –ish with adjectives, but it is a stress neutral suffix like in: Child – Childish /'tʃaɪldɪʃ/)

**Rule 3:** English **verbs** ending in **–ish** carry the stress on the penultimate syllable( before this suffix)

**E.g:** banish /'bænɪʃ/, nourish /'nʌrɪʃ/, polish /'pɒlɪʃ/, cherish /'tʃerɪʃ/, publish /'pʌblɪʃ/, abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/, distinguish /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃ/, demolish /dɪ'mɒlɪʃ/, establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/.

**Exception:** The only one exception to this rule is the verb ‘impoverish’ /ɪm'pɒvərɪʃ/.

**2.4.3. Verbal endings causing Antepenultimate stress:** (2<sup>nd</sup> from the suffix or 3<sup>rd</sup> from the end)

**Rule 5:** English **verbs** of three syllable or more ending in **–ate, –ise (ize) or –fy, are stressed on the antepenultimate syllable ( 3<sup>rd</sup> from the end).**

**Examples:**

<b>–ate</b>	Calculate /'kælkjuleɪt/, Discriminate /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/, Evaluate /ɪ'veljueɪt/, Generate /'dʒenəreɪt/, Hibernate /'haɪbərneɪt/, Investigate /ɪn'vestɪgeɪt/, Legitimate /lə'dʒɪtɪmeɪt/, Participate /pɑ:'tɪsɪpeɪt/, Separate /'sepəreɪt/.
<b>–ise (ize)</b>	Analyse /'ænəlaɪz/, Civilize /'sɪvəlaɪz/, Democratize /'deməkrə'taɪz/, organize /'ɔ:gə'naɪz/, Paralyse /'pærəlaɪz/, Publicise, Utilise /'ju:tɪlaɪz/
<b>–fy</b>	Clarify, dignify, identify /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/, electrify, exemplify, nullify /'nʌlɪfaɪ/ purify /'pʊrɪfaɪ/, qualify /'kwɒlɪfaɪ/, signify, simplify, solidify /'sɒlɪdaɪz/

**Exercise :** transcribe the following words : operate, exaggerate, recognize, criticize, apologize, associate.

**Exercise :** transcribe these words: aristocracy, democracy, pharmacy, ambiguity, creativity, credibility, opportunity, necessity, reality, society, attitude, gratitude, aptitude.

**Time for Practice**

**Exercise 1:** Transcribe the following complex words and marks stress

Examples	Transcription	Examples	Transcription
Assistance	.....	Defiance	.....
Allowance	.....	Servant	.....
Freedom	.....	Difference	.....
Frightful	.....	Fatherhood	.....
Preparing	.....	Fearlessly	.....
Uselessness	.....	Amendment	.....
Elitist	.....	Troublesome	.....
Afterwards	.....	Research	.....
Otherwise	.....		

**Exercise 2:** Transcribe the following words

Examples	Transcription	Examples	Transcription
Limonade	.....	Barricade	.....
Canonnade	.....	Cascade	.....
Refugee	.....	Trainee	.....
Detainee	.....	Interviewee	.....
Devotee	.....		
Velveteen	.....	Seventeen	.....
Careen	.....	Halloween	.....
Mountaineer	.....	Pioneer	.....
Journalese	.....	Japanese	.....
Grotesque	.....	Evacuee	.....
Tattoo	.....	Cartoon	.....
Cigarette	.....	Cassette	.....
Antique	.....	Boutique	.....

**Exercise 3:** Transcribe the following words

Examples	Transcription	Examples	Transcription
Problematic	.....	Poetic	.....
Gigantic	.....	Magnetic	.....
Electric	.....	Basic	.....
Occasion	.....	Illusion	.....
Communication	.....	Publication	.....
Fiction	.....	Civilisation	.....
Radiography	.....	Filmography	.....
Trilogy	.....	Eulogy	.....
Kilometer	.....	Speedometer	.....

**Exercise 4:** Transcribe the following words

Examples	Transcription	Examples	Transcription
Duplicate	.....	Associate	.....
Pasteurise	.....	Americanize	.....
Falsify	.....	Horrify	.....
Lunacy	.....	Humility	.....
Latitude	.....	Variety	.....
Historical	.....	Poetry	.....
Radiography	.....	Filmography	.....
Trilogy	.....	Eulogy	.....
Kilometer	.....	Speedometer	.....