Word stress refers to the emphasis placed on a particular syllable within a word. A stressed syllable is pronounced with greater force, higher pitch, and longer duration compared to unstressed syllables.

**3. Stress in Compound Words**

**Definition:** A compound word consists of two or more words joined to create a new meaning. Compound words can be **nouns, adjectives, or verbs**, and their stress patterns vary accordingly.

**3.1 Stress in Compound Nouns**

* Compound nouns usually have **primary stress on the first element**.
* Examples:
  + BLACKboard
  + SUNflower
  + DOORbell

**3.2 Stress in Compound Adjectives**

* Compound adjectives also follow the pattern of **stress on the first element**.
* Examples:
  + HIGH-speed
  + FULL-time
  + SHORT-tempered

**3.3 Stress in Compound Verbs**

* Unlike nouns and adjectives, compound verbs usually take **primary stress on the second element**.
* Examples:
  + underSTAND
  + overCOME
  + outPERFORM

**Note:** Some words function as both nouns/adjectives and verbs but with a shift in stress.

* REcord (noun) vs. reCORD (verb)
* CONtract (noun) vs. conTRACT (verb)

**4. Stress in Complex Words**

**Definition:** Complex words consist of a root and one or more affixes (prefixes or suffixes).

**4.1 Stress in Words with Prefixes**

* **Unstressed Prefixes**: Many prefixes do not take stress, and the stress falls on the root word.
  + reMARKable
  + unHAPPY
  + disAGREE
* **Stressed Prefixes**: Some prefixes receive primary stress, particularly those that alter meaning significantly.
  + ANTIbody
  + SELFish

**4.2 Stress in Words with Suffixes**

Suffixes influence stress placement in complex words. Some common rules include:

* **Stress-retaining suffixes:** Stress remains on the root word.
  + KINGdom
  + FRIENDship
  + READable
* **Stress-attracting suffixes:** Some suffixes draw stress to themselves.
  + ecoNOMic (suffix -ic)
  + engiNEER (suffix -eer)
  + volunTEER (suffix -eer)

**5. Discussion and Exceptions**

**5.1 Variation in Stress Patterns**

Some compound and complex words may have stress variations due to regional accents, rapid speech, or emphasis in discourse. Example:

* NEWSpaper (common stress) vs. newsPAPER (less common stress in some dialects)
* overLOOK (verb: overLOOK meaning "to fail to notice") vs. OVERlook (noun: "a scenic viewpoint")

**5.2 Homographs with Different Stress Patterns**

* PERmit (noun) vs. perMIT (verb)
* CONtest (noun) vs. conTEST (verb)

**6. Exercises**

**Exercise 1:**

Mark the primary stress in the following words:

1. Blackboard
2. Understand
3. Selfish
4. Economic
5. Friendship
6. Overcome
7. Newspaper
8. Disagree
9. Short-tempered
10. Engineer

**Exercise 2:**

Identify whether the following words are nouns or verbs based on stress placement:

1. Record
2. Permit
3. Progress
4. Import
5. Reject

**Exercise 3:**

Classify the following words into **compound nouns, compound adjectives, compound verbs, words with prefixes, or words with suffixes**:

* Doorbell
* Overcome
* Ex-boyfriend
* Kingdom
* Remarkable

### ****5. Stress and Affixation****

* Certain prefixes and suffixes influence stress placement.
  + **Neutral affixes**: Do not change the main word stress (e.g., hopeFUL).
  + **Stress-shifting affixes**: Shift stress to another syllable (e.g., acadeMIC from ACADEmy).

### ****4. Stress in Compound Words****

Compound words (words formed from two independent words) have distinct stress patterns:

* **Noun + Noun Compounds**: Usually, stress is on the first element.
  + Examples: **BLACKboard, POSTman, CLASSroom**
* **Adjective + Noun Compounds**: Stress is typically on the noun.
  + Example: **bad-TEMPER**
* **Phrasal Verbs vs. Noun Forms**:
  + **Phrasal verbs** often have stress on the second element: take OFF, turn DOWN.
  + **Noun forms** of phrasal verbs have stress on the first part: TAKEoff, TURNdown.

### ****5. Effects of Word Stress on Pronunciation****

Roach explains how word stress affects spoken English:

* **Weak Forms in Unstressed Syllables**
  + Unstressed syllables often contain weak vowels (especially schwa /ə/), leading to vowel reduction.
  + Example: The word banana is pronounced **/bəˈnɑː.nə/** with a schwa in the first syllable.
* **Reduction and Elision**
  + Unstressed syllables are more likely to be **reduced or deleted** in fast speech.
  + Example: family may be pronounced **/ˈfæm.li/** instead of **/ˈfæm.ɪ.li/**.
* **Rhythm and Stress-Timing**
  + English is a **stress-timed language**, meaning stressed syllables occur at regular intervals, while unstressed syllables are shortened to fit into the rhythm.
  + Example: The cat sat on the mat—the stressed syllables (cat, sat, mat) are evenly spaced, while unstressed syllables are compressed.

### ****6. Word Stress and Affixation****

The addition of prefixes and suffixes can alter the stress pattern of a word. Roach categorizes affixes into three types:

#### **A. Neutral Affixes (Do Not Change Stress Placement)**

* These affixes do not affect the stress of the root word.
* Example:
  + **‘hope’** → **‘hopeful’** (Stress remains on hope)

#### **B. Stress-Attracting Affixes (Shift Stress to Themselves)**

* Some suffixes attract stress to their own syllable.
* Example:
  + **‘nation’** → **‘nationAL’** (Stress shifts to AL)

#### **C. Stress-Fixing Affixes (Shift Stress to Another Syllable)**

* Some affixes cause the main stress to move to another syllable.
* Example:
  + **‘academy’** (/əˈkædəmi/) → **‘academic’** (/ˌækəˈdɛmɪk/)