

## WORD STRESS

### Compound words

a) First element adjectival,  
stress on second element.

- 1 loud**s**peaker
- 2 bad-**t**empered
- 3 head**q**uarters
- 4 second-**c**lass
- 5 three-**w**heeler
- 6 over**w**eight
- 7 red-**b**looded

b) First element nominal,  
stress on first element.

- 1 **t**yewriter
- 2 **c**ar-ferry
- 3 **s**unrise
- 4 **s**uitcase
- 5 **t**ea-cup
- 6 **g**unman
- 7 **g**ear-box

### Disyllabic words & verbs of Latin origin

**Verbs** of this sort are typically accented on the root while the corresponding **nouns** (or adjectives) are accented on the prefix; eg.: *abstract, conduct, conflict, contrast, convert, convict, desert, perfect, permit, present, produce, project, subject...*

- ⊙ ⊙ There are *notable exceptions* though:  
*control, direct, patrol, reform, release, report, request, return...*  
Other words are always stressed on the first syllable regardless of their function:  
*boycott, comfort, process, welcome...*

### Word- class pairs

Stress the last syllable if it is a verb; stress the first syllable if it is a noun or adjective.

1 <b>a</b> bstract	(Adjective)	10 <b>o</b> bject	(Noun)
2 <b>c</b> onduct	(Verb)	11 <b>p</b> erfect	(Adjective)
3 <b>c</b> ontract	(Noun)	12 <b>p</b> ermit	(Verb)
4 <b>c</b> ontrast	(Verb)	13 <b>p</b> resent	(Adjective)
5 <b>d</b> esert	(Noun)	14 <b>p</b> roduce	(Verb)
6 <b>e</b> scort	(Noun)	15 <b>p</b> rotest	(Noun)
7 <b>e</b> xport	(Verb)	16 <b>r</b> ebel	(Verb)
8 <b>i</b> mport	(Noun)	17 <b>r</b> ecord	(Noun)
9 <b>i</b> nsult	(Verb)	18 <b>s</b> ubject	(Noun)

☐ Please read and pay special attention to the words in **bold**. Stress the second syllable if it is a verb; stress the first syllable if it is a noun or adjective.

- 1 Who **conducts** the BBC orchestra?
- 2 Are their **exports** as large as their **imports**?
- 3 To add **insult** to injury I had to pay for their meal.
- 4 Would anyone **object** if we started the meeting now?
- 5 Conservation groups have united in **protest** against globalisation
- 6 '**Rebel Without A Cause**' was a successful film featuring James Dean.
- 7 Company profits are rising and it looks as though this is going to be a **record**-breaking year.
- 8 Practice makes **progress**.
- 9 '**The Song Remains The Same**' was a great **recording** by Led Zeppelin.
- 10 My pen seems to be running out of ink – I need a **refill**.