

How Do You Pronounce Complex Words?

Worksheet

Pronounce complex words by breaking them into syllables, identifying primary stress, and learning phonetic patterns. Common strategies include syllable division, consulting IPA notation, and practicing with native speaker recordings.

Questions

1. How many syllables does 'photograph' have?
A) 2
B) 3
C) 4
D) 5
2. Which syllable is stressed in 'presentation'?
A) 1st
B) 2nd
C) 3rd
D) 4th
3. The 'k' in 'knight' is an example of what?
A) A stressed syllable
B) A silent letter
C) A vowel sound
D) A stress marker
4. What tool shows exactly how a word is pronounced?
A) Rhyming dictionary
B) Thesaurus
C) IPA notation
D) Spell-check
5. Pronounce 'worcestershire' (the sauce).
6. How to pronounce 'queue' correctly?
7. Pronounce 'mischievous' (often mispronounced).
8. Define: What is the first step when approaching a complex word?
9. Define: What does 'stress' mean in pronunciation?
10. Define: What are silent letters?

Answer Key

1. C) 4 — pho-to-graph = 3 syllables.
2. C) 3rd — pre-sen-TA-tion — stress is on the 3rd syllable.
3. B) A silent letter — The 'k' in 'knight' is not pronounced—it's a silent letter.
4. C) IPA notation — IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) precisely shows pronunciation.
5. Syllables: Wor-ces-ter-shire (4 syllables) Stress: WOR-ces-ter-shire (primary stress on 1st) Trick: 'cester' sounds like 'ster', not 'ses-ter' Correct: WOOS-ter-sheer or WOOS-ter-shir
6. Syllables: queue (1 syllable only) IPA: /kju:/ Trick: Only 'q' and 'u' are pronounced; 'e' is silent Correct: sounds exactly like 'cue'
7. Syllables: mis-chie-vous (3, NOT mis-chee-vee-us) Stress: MIS-chi-vous (primary on 1st) Common mistake: people add an extra syllable Correct: MIS-chu-vus
8. Count and identify the syllables that make up the word.
9. The syllable or sound that is emphasized loudest and clearest when speaking.
10. Letters in a word that are written but not pronounced (e.g., 'k' in 'knight').

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