

What are Stress Patterns in English?

Worksheet

Word stress is the emphasis you place on a particular syllable in a word. English stress patterns vary by word type: nouns often stress the first syllable (PREsent), verbs often stress the last (preSENT), and adjectives have mixed patterns.

Questions

1. Which word has stress on the LAST syllable?
A) Tiger
B) aLONG
C) APple
D) SUNrise
2. Noun 'OBject' vs. verb 'obJECT' — which is which?
A) Both same
B) OBject is verb
C) OBject is noun
D) Can't tell
3. How many syllables does 'USUALLY' have?
A) 2
B) 3
C) 4
D) 5
4. Stress affects understanding in...
A) Only poetry
B) Only vowels
C) Meaning and comprehension
D) Only spelling
5. Noun 'RECORD' vs. verb 'record': Where is stress?
6. Adjective 'BEAUTIFUL': Which syllable is stressed?
7. Adverb 'USUALLY': Where is the primary stress?
8. Define: What is word stress?
9. Define: Noun stress pattern in English?
10. Define: Verb stress pattern in English?

Answer Key

1. B) aLONG — 'Along' stresses the last syllable: a-LONG.
2. C) OBject is noun — OBject (first syllable) is the noun. obJECT (last syllable) is the verb.
3. B) 3 — 'Usually' has 3 syllables: USH-oo-al, not 4 or 5.
4. C) Meaning and comprehension — Correct stress helps listeners understand — wrong stress can confuse meaning.
5. Noun: REcord (first syllable stressed) — 'I found an old REcord in the attic.' Verb: reCORD (second syllable stressed) — 'Let me reCORD this meeting.'
6. BEAUtiful (first syllable) — stress falls on 'beau', not 'ti' or 'ful'. Try saying it: BEE-uh-ful, with emphasis on BEE.
7. USually (first syllable stressed) — 'We USUALLY meet on Fridays.' Not ush-WOO-al-ee, but USH-oo-al-ee.
8. The emphasis or louder sound you give to a particular syllable in a word.
9. Often first syllable stressed — TAlent, MUsic, Clty.
10. Often later syllables stressed — imPORT, reCORD, preSENT.

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