

Teacher's Copy

English Pronunciation: Stress and Rhythm

What is word stress?

English words have stress patterns and can be pronounced in different ways. The way words are pronounced gives meaning. If words are pronounced incorrectly it can be difficult to understand what the speaker is saying.

- (1) Part of correct spelling: **con**crete stress. We can show stress by underlining.

concrete

concrete

concrete

(2) We can show stress by using a large 'l' on stressed syllables and small 'l' on unstressed syllables:

con **l**
concrete

con **l**
concrete

con **l**
concrete

1. Say the following words a few times and show where the stress is in the word.

copy

study

English

office

apple

How many syllables do these words have? _____

2. Look at these three-syllable words. Say them and show where the stress is.

exponent

excuse

humbly

insure

justice

3. Think of the name of 5 international cities. Write them and show where the stress is.
Example: London

(3) Sentences also have stressed words and syllables. Strong and weak syllables together in a sentence create rhythm.

Examples of rhythm:

- It is for **books**, with **spare** on his **back**, who **lives** in the **open**, and **grazes** **easy**, **quick**.

4. Listen to the following poem, and underline the stressed words or syllables.