

Course Name: English Phonology
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Chapter 11: Complex Word Stress



- Complex words are of two major types:
 1. Words with affixes (prefixes and suffixes).
 2. Compound words



- Effect of Prefixes on Word Stress:
- The best treatment seems to be to say that stress in words with prefixes is governed by the same rules as those for polysyllabic words without prefixes.



- Suffixes have one of three possible effects on word stress:

1. The suffix itself receives the primary stress

Example:

Cigarette /sɪgr'et/

These kinds of suffixes are called stress-carrying suffixes.



2. The word is stress as if the suffix were not there.

Amazing /ə'meɪzɪŋ/

These kinds of suffixes are called neutral suffixes.



2. The primary stress remains on the stem, not the suffix, but is shifted to a different syllable.

advantage /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/

advantage /ædvən'teɪdʒəs/

These kinds of suffixes are called stress-moving suffixes.



Stress in Compound Words:

1. If the compound word combines two nouns, it normally has the stress on the first element, as in:

Suitcase /'su:tkeɪs/



2. Compound words with an adjectival first element and the -ed morpheme at the end will have the primary stress on the second element and secondary stress on the first, as in:

bad-tempered / ,bæd 'tempəd /



3. Compound words in which the first element is a number in some form also tend to have primary stress on the second element and secondary stress on the first, as in:

Three-wheeler / ,θri: 'wi:lə/



4. Compound words functioning as adverbs usually have primary stress on the second element and secondary stress on the first, as in:

North-East / ,nɔːθ 'iːst/



5. Compound words functioning as verbs and have adverbial first elements usually have primary stress on the second element and secondary stress on the first, as in:

ill-treat / ,ɪl 'tri:t/



Stress in Word-class Pairs:

- Word-class pairs are pairs of words that are similar in spelling but different in grammatical category, pronunciation, and stress placement.
- If the word is a noun or an adjective, primary stress goes on the first syllable.
- If the word is a verb, primary stress goes on the second syllable.
- Example: Present (n.) /'preznt/
Present (v.) /pri'zent/

