

English Stress Rules

Generally, a word is stressed on the nearest strong syllable to the end. Work from right to left, beginning with the final syllable. Is it strong? If not, move along, until you find a strong syllable. Here are some typical patterns:

Compound Nouns	"Ante" Ante-Penultimate words with a 2-syllable suffix:	Ante-Penultimate words with a 2-syllable suffix:	Penultimate words with a 1-syllable suffix:	Final 1-syllable content words:
airport bedroom birthday championship cupboard dashboard forecast grandma handbag handbrake midwife motorbike necklace runway seatbelt starfish sunblock Sunday sunglasses toothpaste tracksuit volleyball wardrobe windscreen	escalator indicator radiator manageable inevitable noticeable eligible necessary February particularly naturally other examples: athleticism definitely insidiousness organising rheumatism stupefying	accidentally collectable community geography irresistible nursery redundancy words with a suffix in the root word + new suffix: acknowledgement challenging classical happily recreational stubbornness words with a suffix and a weak syllable uh or i : factory excellent exuberance principle musical family	adolescence dentist dependent implanted prescription professor sentence tractor twenty umbrella wedding 2-syllable words with a suffix: centre illness kidney listen mammal planning practice singer valley written yellow	bake sun train get throw 2-syllable verbs: advise decide enjoy forget remove the suffix is stressed: believe cigarette engineer mayonnaise referee the first syllable is a schwa: across along apply arrive escape

Exceptions:

- **compound nouns** are stressed on the first syllable
- both parts of **phrasal verbs** are stressed, e.g. wake up
- **acronyms** are stressed on the final syllable, e.g. UN
- **homographs** e.g. **produce** (verb) / **produce** (noun)