

Suffixes and Word Stress

- Suffixes are **usually** unstressed.
- Words with the following suffixes are usually* stressed on **the syllable before the suffix** (shown in bold):

<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Example #1</u>	<u>Example #2</u>	<u>Example #3</u>	<u>Example #4</u>
-able	unbeliev-able	inconceiv-able	unforgiv-able	accept-able
-age	advant-age	discour-age	percent-age	remarri-age
-ance	assist-ance	annoy-ance	reappear-ance	import-ance
-ancy	account-ancy	expect-ancy	redund-ancy	discrep-ancy
-ed	consult-ed	inflict-ed	present-ed	unexpected-ed
-ency	depend-ency	absorb-ency	complac-ency	inconsist-ency
-ent	independ-ent	insuffici-ent	correspond-ent	incandesc-ent
-eous	outrag-eous	courag-eous	simultan-eous	advantag-eous
-ial	colon-ial	bicentenn-ial	financ-ial	artific-ial
-ian	optic-ian	amphib-ian	mathematic-ian	vegetar-ian
-ible	incred-ible	collect-ible	incomprehens-ible	undigest-ible
-ic	encycloped-ic	microscop-ic	fantast-ic	problematic-ic
-ical	illog-ical	econom-ical	philanthrop-ical	stereotyp-ical
-ify	overident-ify	demyst-ify	electr-ify	object-ify
-ious	rebell-ious	industr-ious	unostentat-ious	conscient-ious
-ity	commun-ity	believabil-ity	incomprehensibil-ity	respectabil-ity
-ment	content-ment	entertain-ment	engage-ment	underachieve-ment
-raphy	geog-raphy	biog-raphy	callig-raphy	photog-raphy
-sion	apprehen-sion	dimen-sion	incomprehen-sion	supervi-sion
-tion	infla-tion	interven-tion	informa-tion	contradic-tion
-ual	unus-ual	noncontract-ual	intellect-ual	multiling-ual

Exceptions to the rule

Words with the following suffixes are usually* stressed **on the suffix** (shown in bold):

<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Example #1</u>	<u>Example #2</u>	<u>Example #3</u>	<u>Example #4</u>
-ee	trust- ee	attend- ee	interview- ee	guarant- ee
-eer	ballad- eer	auction- eer	volunt- eer	engin- eer
-ese	journal- ese	Vietnam- ese	Portugu- ese	Canton- ese
-esque	Chaplin- esque	statu- esque	pictur- esque	Ruben- esque
-ess	steward- ess	lion- ess	poet- ess	manager- ess
-ette	laundry- ette	usher- ette	kitchen- ette	maison- ette
-phobia	claustro- phobia	arachno- phobia	techno- phobia	xeno- phobia
-phobic	claustro- phobic	arachno- phobic	techno- phobic	xeno- phobic

* Note: there will be some exceptions, as with any rule in English!