

Talk a Lot

Focus on Connected Speech

Working Out Word Stress – Two-Syllable Words where the First Syllable is a Schwa: uh

*There are many common two-syllable words in English – particularly verbs – where the first syllable is a schwa – uh – as you can see from the table below. **Because the schwa sound is always unstressed, we know for sure that these words all have the strong stress on the second syllable.***

Note that all of the words begin with the letter “a”, and notice the double consonant letters after many of the verbs, e.g. affect.

VERBS

abate	uh Beit
abet	uh Bet
abide	uh Baid
abort	uh Bort
abridge	uh Brij
abuse	uh Byooz
accord	uh Kord
accost	uh Kost
account	uh Kaunt
accuse	uh Kyooz
achieve	uh Cheev
acquaint	uh Kweint
acquire	uh Kwaivy
acquit	uh Kwit
adapt	uh Dapt
address	uh Dres
adjust	uh Just
adopt	uh Dopt
adore	uh Dor
affect	uh Fekt
affirm	uh Ferm
affix	uh Fiks
afflict	uh Flikt
afford	uh Ford
agree	uh Gree
alarm	uh Larm
alert	uh Lert
alight	uh Lait
allege	uh Lej
allow	uh Lau
allude	uh Lood
ally	uh Lai
amass	uh Mas
amaze	uh Meiz
amend	uh Mend
amuse	uh Myooz
announce	uh Nauns
annoy	uh Noy
annul	uh Nul

appal	uh Porl
appeal	uh Piyl
appear	uh Piy
appease	uh Peez
append	uh Pend
applaud	uh Plord
apply	uh Plai
appoint	uh Poynt
approach	uh Preuch
approve	uh Proov
arise	uh Raiz
arouse	uh Rauz
arrange	uh Reinj
array	uh Rei
arrest	uh Rest
arrive	uh Raiv
ascend	uh Send
ascribe	uh Scraib
aspire	uh Spaivy
assault	uh Solt
assent	uh Sent
assert	uh Sert
assess	uh Ses
assign	uh Sain
assist	uh Sist
assume	uh Syoom
assure	uh Shuuw
astound	uh Staund
attach	uh Tach
attack	uh Tak
attain	uh Tein
attempt	uh Tempt
attend	uh Tend
attract	uh Trakt
avail	uh Veil
avenge	uh Venj
avert	uh Vert
avoid	uh Voyd
award	uh Word

ADVERBS

aback	uh Bak
aboard	uh Bord
about	uh Baut
above	uh Buv
abreast	uh Brest
abroad	uh Brord
across	uh Kros
afar	uh Far
afield	uh Fiyld
afresh	uh Fresh
again	uh Gen
ago	uh Geu
aground	uh Graund
ahead	uh Hed
ajar	uh Jar
alike	uh Laik
aloft	uh Loft
alone	uh Leun
along	uh Long
aloud	uh Laud
amid	uh Mid
amok	uh Mok
among	uh Mung
anew	uh Nyoo
apart	uh Part
apiece	uh Pees
around	uh Raund
ashore	uh Shor
aside	uh Said
askew	uh Skyoo
asleep	uh Sleep
astray	uh Strei
astride	uh Straid
away	uh Wei
awry	uh Rai

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ADJECTIVES

abrupt	uh Brupt
acute	uh Kyoot
afloat	uh Fleut
afraid	uh Freid
against	uh Genst
aghast	uh Garst
alert	uh Lert
alive	uh Laiv
aloof	uh Loof
ashamed	uh Sheimd
asleep	uh Sleep
astute	uh Schoot
averse	uh Vers
awake	uh Weik
aware	uh Weir

NOUNS

abode	uh Beud
account	uh Kaunt
address	uh Dres
ado	uh Doo
affair	uh Feir
affront	uh Frunt
alarm	uh Larm
amount	uh Maunt
applause	uh Plorz