

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