

Talk a Lot

Focus on Connected Speech

Sentence Stress in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 1)

*(Each content word (shown in black) contains one strong stress on a vowel sound.
Each function word (shown in grey) is unstressed.)*

Town

1. Peter walks two kilometres to his office every day.
2. We're waiting patiently for the bus at the bus stop opposite the church.
3. Jennifer bought a couple of cakes at the bakery, then ran to the post office.
4. The department store was opening until 10 o'clock because they were having a massive sale.
5. I've agreed to meet Dan in the old market place outside the library.
6. We could drive to the lake and go fishing.
7. The new optician's next to the bank will open next Friday.
8. If the tennis court is busy we can go to the gym instead.

Food and Drink

1. The best kind of bread is white sliced bread.
2. Michelle is having salad and pasta because she doesn't eat meat.
3. Daniel gave himself the largest portion of ice cream.
4. Ellen was talking about her sister who loves fish and chips.
5. Jenny has just put the cheese in the fridge.
6. Potatoes can be boiled, mashed, fried, chipped, roasted, or oven-baked.
7. We're going to buy some fruit at the supermarket this afternoon.
8. If you eat too much chocolate you will put on weight.

Shopping

1. Emma is the manager of a small Italian restaurant.
2. Simon is visiting the new shopping centre near St. Mark's Road.
3. I used my debit card to buy a pair of shoes for work.
4. Jan was leaving the car park because she had finished her shopping.
5. I've looked everywhere in this shop for a tin of vegetable soup, but I can't find one anywhere.
6. We should take the lift to the fifth floor.
7. After we finish buying groceries we'll go to Nero's for a quick coffee.
8. If the checkout assistant offers to pack my bags I'll let her.

Health

1. Being healthy is very important to me.
2. Sammi is sitting in the waiting room with her mum and brother.
3. I phoned my doctor this morning to make an appointment.
4. Ella was telling the receptionist about her husband's painful arthritis.
5. I've taken two tablets three times a day for a week, but I still don't feel any better.
6. Kenny has to take his prescription to the pharmacy tomorrow.
7. Simon is going to visit the optician's for an eye examination.
8. If you ask the doctor she will give you some good advice about your problem.

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Sentence Stress in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 2)

*(Each content word (shown in black) contains one strong stress on a vowel sound.
Each function word (shown in grey) is unstressed.)*

Transport

1. I usually get the train at 7.28.
2. Gemma is driving to the airport to pick up her grandmother.
3. I flew from Heathrow to Copenhagen last night.
4. Oliver was crossing the road when he was hit by a bus.
5. We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.
6. All passengers must show their passports and boarding passes at the gate.
7. The next train to arrive at platform 8 will be the 9.49 service to Cardiff.
8. If we cycle to work we'll get there in about an hour.

Family

1. My mum lives with her new partner in Brighton.
2. Roberto's daughter is playing with her cousins.
3. Jenna's aunt and uncle visited us in May because they wanted to see our new baby.
4. My sister was walking to the city museum with her children when she saw a fox.
5. The whole family has decided to go on holiday to Florida next year.
6. Your grandma and granddad should think about moving into a retirement bungalow.
7. Sam's brother is going to start university in Edinburgh next September.
8. If our parents get divorced the family will be very disappointed.

Clothes

1. I wear glasses because I'm short-sighted.
2. Harry is trying on a new pair of smart black trousers.
3. Frankie bought herself a new dress and some underwear in the trendiest boutique on Oxford Street.
4. Michael was wearing the yellow and brown striped pyjamas that his grandma had knitted him for Christmas.
5. I have always liked jackets and tops from Marks and Spencer.
6. Stephen has to wear a blue and grey uniform every day for his job as a security guard.
7. We'll have a clearout of our wardrobe to see what we can give away to charity.
8. If you wear a suit and tie to the interview you'll make an excellent impression.

Work

1. Gerry hates working part-time for his dad's furniture business.
2. Helena is hoping to get promoted at the end of the year.
3. When Greg worked for Dell he had to do plenty of overtime.
4. Edward was updating his CV because he wanted to apply for a new job.
5. My friend Jo has been unemployed since last August.
6. You need to ask your manager for a pay rise as soon as possible!
7. I'm going to visit that new employment agency about temporary work.
8. Dave will have to work very hard if he wants to have a successful career in sales.

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Focus on Connected Speech

Sentence Stress in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 3)

*(Each content word (shown in black) contains one strong stress on a vowel sound.
Each function word (shown in grey) is unstressed.)*

Home

1. I live in a small semi-detached house in Manchester.
2. Mark is buying a new washing machine because his old one is broken.
3. When I went to their home Jack and Lisa showed me their new bathroom.
4. Sarah and Noel were watching funny DVDs in their living room for three hours last night.
5. Jason has finished cutting the grass in the back garden.
6. Barry has to do the washing up every night after tea.
7. I'll do the hoovering quickly before I have a bath.
8. If you sell your horrible flat you'll be able to put down a deposit on a nice house.

Free Time

1. I love going to the cinema with my friends, because we always have a good time.
2. Barney and Wanda are enjoying a day out at an amusement park.
3. We went on a camping holiday last summer for two weeks.
4. Chester's son was playing golf badly yesterday afternoon with a few friends from his cousin's bowling club.
5. I have seen Macbeth at this theatre five times.
6. You should do some exercise instead of playing computer games all day.
7. Me, Jess and Casey are going to watch the tennis in the park.
8. If the leisure centre is still open we can all go swimming.

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Stressed Syllables in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 1)

(Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. Each function word (shown in grey) is unstressed.)

Town

1. Peter walks two kilometres to his office every day.
2. We're waiting patiently for the bus at the bus stop opposite the church.
3. Jennifer bought a couple of cakes at the bakery, then ran to the post office.
4. The department store was opening until 10 o'clock because they were having a massive sale.
5. I've agreed to meet Dan in the old market place outside the library.
6. We could drive to the lake and go fishing.
7. The new optician's next to the bank will open next Friday.
8. If the tennis court is busy we can go to the gym instead.

Food and Drink

1. The best kind of bread is white sliced bread.
2. Michelle is having salad and pasta because she doesn't eat meat.
3. Daniel gave himself the largest portion of ice cream.
4. Ellen was talking about her sister who loves fish and chips.
5. Jenny has just put the cheese in the fridge.
6. Potatoes can be boiled, mashed, fried, chipped, roasted, or oven-baked.
7. We're going to buy some fruit at the supermarket this afternoon.
8. If you eat too much chocolate you will put on weight.

Shopping

1. Emma is the manager of a small Italian restaurant.
2. Simon is visiting the new shopping centre near St. Mark's Road.
3. I used my debit card to buy a pair of shoes for work.
4. Jan was leaving the car park because she had finished her shopping.
5. I've looked everywhere in this shop for a tin of vegetable soup, but I can't find one anywhere.
6. We should take the lift to the fifth floor.
7. After we finish buying groceries we'll go to Nero's for a quick coffee.
8. If the checkout assistant offers to pack my bags I'll let her.

Health

1. Being healthy is very important to me.
2. Sammi is sitting in the waiting room with her mum and brother.
3. I phoned my doctor this morning to make an appointment.
4. Ella was telling the receptionist about her husband's painful arthritis.
5. I've taken two tablets three times a day for a week, but I still don't feel any better.
6. Kenny has to take his prescription to the pharmacy tomorrow.
7. Simon is going to visit the optician's for an eye examination.
8. If you ask the doctor she will give you some good advice about your problem.

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Stressed Syllables in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 2)

(Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. Each function word (shown in grey) is unstressed.)

Transport

1. I usually get the train at seven twenty eight.
2. Gemma is driving to the airport to pick up her grandmother.
3. I flew from Heathrow to Copenhagen last night.
4. Oliver was crossing the road when he was hit by a bus.
5. We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.
6. All passengers must show their passports and boarding passes at the gate.
7. The next train to arrive at platform eight will be the nine forty nine service to Cardiff.
8. If we cycle to work we'll get there in about an hour.

Family

1. My mum lives with her new partner in Brighton.
2. Roberto's daughter is playing with her cousins.
3. Jenna's aunt and uncle visited us in May because they wanted to see our new baby.
4. My sister was walking to the city museum with her children when she saw a fox.
5. The whole family has decided to go on holiday to Florida next year.
6. Your grandma and granddad should think about moving into a retirement bungalow.
7. Sam's brother is going to start university in Edinburgh next September.
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Clothes

1. I wear glasses because I'm short-sighted.
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3. Frankie bought herself a new dress and some underwear in the trendiest boutique on Oxford Street.
4. Michael was wearing the yellow and brown striped pyjamas that his grandma had knitted him for Christmas.
5. I have always liked jackets and tops from Marks and Spencer.
6. Stephen has to wear a blue and grey uniform every day for his job as a security guard.
7. We'll have a clearout of our wardrobe to see what we can give away to charity.
8. If you wear a suit and tie to the interview you'll make an excellent impression.

Work

1. Gerry hates working part-time for his dad's furniture business.
2. Helena is hoping to get promoted at the end of the year.
3. When Greg worked for Dell he had to do plenty of overtime.
4. Edward was updating his C V because he wanted to apply for a new job.
5. My friend Jo has been unemployed since last August.
6. You need to ask your manager for a pay rise as soon as possible!
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Stressed Syllables & Vowel Sounds in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 1)

(Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the "sound spine" of the sentence. If you can get the sound spine right, you will really increase your chances of being understood.)

Town

- /i:/ /ɔ:/ /u:/ /ɒ/ /ɒ/ /e/ /eɪ/
1. Peter walks two kilometres to his office every day.
- /eɪ/ /eɪ/ /ʌ/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /ɜ:/
2. We're waiting patiently for the bus at the bus stop opposite the church.
- /e/ /ɔ:/ /eɪ/ /eɪ/ /æ/ /əʊ/ /ɒ/
3. Jennifer bought a couple of cakes at the bakery, then ran to the post office.
- /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/ /əʊ/ /e/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /æ/ /eɪ/
4. The department store was opening until 10 o'clock because they were having a massive sale.
- /i:/ /i:/ /æ/ /əʊ/ /ɑ:/ /eɪ/ /aɪ/
5. I've agreed to meet Dan in the old market place outside the library.
- /aɪ/ /eɪ/ /əʊ/ /ɪ/
6. We could drive to the lake and go fishing.
- /u:/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/
7. The new optician's next to the bank will open next Friday.
- /e/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/ /əʊ/ /ɪ/ /e/
8. If the tennis court is busy we can go to the gym instead.

Food and Drink

- /e/ /e/ /aɪ/ /aɪ/ /e/
1. The best kind of bread is white sliced bread.
- /e/ /æ/ /æ/ /æ/ /ʌ/ /i:/ /i:/
2. Michelle is having salad and pasta because she doesn't eat meat.
- /æ/ /eɪ/ /e/ /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/ /aɪ/ /i:/
3. Daniel gave himself the largest portion of ice cream.
- /e/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/ /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/
4. Ellen was talking about her sister who loves fish and chips.
- /e/ /ʌ/ /ʊ/ /i:/ /ɪ/
5. Jenny has just put the cheese in the fridge.
- /eɪ/ /ɔɪ/ /æ/ /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /əʊ/ /ʌ/ /eɪ/
6. Potatoes can be boiled, mashed, fried, chipped, roasted, or oven-baked.
- /aɪ/ /u:/ /u:/ /u:/
7. We're going to buy some fruit at the supermarket this afternoon.
- /i:/ /ɒ/ /ʊ/ /ɒ/ /eɪ/
8. If you eat too much chocolate you will put on weight.

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Stressed Syllables & Vowel Sounds in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 2)

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Shopping

- /e/ /æ/ /ɔ:/ /æ/ /e/
1. Emma is the manager of a small Italian restaurant.
- /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /ɒ/ /e/ /ɑ:/ /əʊ/
2. Simon is visiting the new shopping centre near St. Mark's Road.
- /u:/ /e/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /u:/ /ɜ:/
3. I used my debit card to buy a pair of shoes for work.
- /æ/ /i:/ /ɑ:/ /ɑ:/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/
4. Jan was leaving the car park because she had finished her shopping.
- /ʊ/ /e/ /ɒ/ /ɪ/ /e/ /u:/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /e/
5. I've looked everywhere in this shop for a tin of vegetable soup, but I can't find one anywhere.
- /eɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɔ:/
6. We should take the lift to the fifth floor.
- /ɪ/ /aɪ/ /əʊ/ /əʊ/ /ɪə/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/
7. After we finish buying groceries we'll go to Nero's for a quick coffee.
- /e/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /æ/ /e/
8. If the checkout assistant offers to pack my bags I'll let her.

Health

- /e/ /e/ /ɔ:/
1. Being healthy is very important to me.
- /æ/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /u:/ /ʌ/ /ʌ/
2. Sammi is sitting in the waiting room with her mum and brother.
- /əʊ/ /ɒ/ /ɔ:/ /eɪ/ /ɔɪ/
3. I phoned my doctor this morning to make an appointment.
- /e/ /e/ /e/ /ʌ/ /eɪ/ /aɪ/
4. Ella was telling the receptionist about her husband's painful arthritis.
- /eɪ/ /u:/ /æ/ /i:/ /aɪ/ /eɪ/ /i:/ /ɪ/ /əʊ/ /i:/ /e/
5. I've taken two tablets three times a day for a week, but I still don't feel any better.
- /e/ /eɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɑ:/ /ɒ/
6. Kenny has to take his prescription to the pharmacy tomorrow.
- /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /aɪ/ /eɪ/
7. Simon is going to visit the optician's for an eye examination.
- /ɑ:/ /ɒ/ /ɪ/ /ʊ/ /aɪ/ /ɒ/
8. If you ask the doctor she will give you some good advice about your problem.

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Stressed Syllables & Vowel Sounds in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 3)

(Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the "sound spine" of the sentence. If you can get the sound spine right, you will really increase your chances of being understood.)

Transport

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1. I usually get the train at seven twenty eight.
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2. Gemma is driving to the airport to pick up her grandmother.
- /u:/ /i:/ /eɪ/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/
3. I flew from Heathrow to Copenhagen last night.
- /ɒ/ /ɒ/ /əʊ/ /ɪ/ /ʌ/
4. Oliver was crossing the road when he was hit by a bus.
- /æ/ /aɪ/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/
5. We've cancelled our flight because our daughter is ill.
- /ɔ:/ /æ/ /əʊ/ /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/ /ɑ:/ /eɪ/
6. All passengers must show their passports and boarding passes at the gate.
- /e/ /eɪ/ /aɪ/ /æ/ /eɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɔ:/ /aɪ/ /ɜ:/ /ɑ:/
7. The next train to arrive at platform eight will be the nine forty nine service to Cardiff.
- /aɪ/ /ɜ:/ /e/ /eə/ /aʊə/
8. If we cycle to work we'll get there in about an hour.

Family

- /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/
1. My mum lives with her new partner in Brighton.
- /ɜ:/ /ɔ:/ /eɪ/ /ʌ/
2. Roberto's daughter is playing with her cousins.
- /e/ /ɑ:/ /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /i:/ /u:/ /eɪ/
3. Jenna's aunt and uncle visited us in May because they wanted to see our new baby.
- /ɪ/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/ /i:/ /ɪ/ /ɔ:/ /ɒ/
4. My sister was walking to the city museum with her children when she saw a fox.
- /əʊ/ /æ/ /aɪ/ /əʊ/ /ɒ/ /ɒ/ /e/ /ɪə/
5. The whole family has decided to go on holiday to Florida next year.
- /æ/ /æ/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /aɪə/ /ʌ/
6. Your grandma and granddad should think about moving into a retirement bungalow.
- /æ/ /ʌ/ /ɑ:/ /ɜ:/ /e/ /e/ /e/
7. Sam's brother is going to start university in Edinburgh next September.
- /eə/ /e/ /ɔ:/ /æ/ /e/ /ɔ:/
8. If our parents get divorced the family will be very disappointed.

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Stressed Syllables & Vowel Sounds in Starting Sentences from Elementary Book 1 (Page 4)

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Clothes

- /eə/ /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/ /aɪ/
1. I wear glasses because I'm short-sighted.
- /æ/ /aɪ/ /ɒ/ /u:/ /eə/ /ɑ:/ /æ/ /aʊ/
2. Harry is trying on a new pair of smart black trousers.
- /æ/ /ɔ:/ /u:/ /e/ /ʌ/ /e/ /i:/ /ɒ/ /i:/
3. Frankie bought herself a new dress and some underwear in the trendiest boutique on Oxford Street.
- /aɪ/ /eə/ /e/ /aʊ/ /aɪ/ /ɑ:/ /æ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/
4. Michael was wearing the yellow and brown striped pyjamas that his grandma had knitted him for Christmas.
- /ɔ:/ /aɪ/ /æ/ /ɒ/ /ɑ:/ /e/
5. I have always liked jackets and tops from Marks and Spencer.
- /i:/ /eə/ /u:/ /eɪ/ /u:/ /e/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /ʊə/ /ɑ:/
6. Stephen has to wear a blue and grey uniform every day for his job as a security guard.
- /æ/ /ɪə/ /ɔ:/ /i:/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /æ/
7. We'll have a clearout of our wardrobe to see what we can give away to charity.
- /eə/ /u:/ /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /e/ /e/
8. If you wear a suit and tie to the interview you'll make an excellent impression.

Work

- /e/ /eɪ/ /ɜ:/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /æ/ /ɜ:/ /ɪ/
1. Gerry hates working part-time for his dad's furniture business.
- /e/ /əʊ/ /e/ /əʊ/ /e/ /ɪə/
2. Helena is hoping to get promoted at the end of the year.
- /e/ /ɜ:/ /e/ /u:/ /əʊ/
3. When Greg worked for Dell he had to do plenty of overtime.
- /e/ /eɪ/ /i/ /i/ /ɒ/ /aɪ/ /u:/ /ɒ/
4. Edward was updating his C V because he wanted to apply for a new job.
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5. My friend Jo has been unemployed since last August.
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6. You need to ask your manager for a pay rise as soon as possible!
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7. I'm going to visit that new employment agency about temporary work.
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8. Dave will have to work very hard if he wants to have a successful career in sales.

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Home

- /ɪ/ /ɔ:/ /e/ /æ/ /aʊ/ /æ/
1. I live in a small semi-detached house in Manchester.
- /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /u:/ /ɒ/ /i:/ /əʊ/ /ʌ/ /əʊ/
2. Mark is buying a new washing machine because his old one is broken.
- /e/ /əʊ/ /æ/ /i:/ /əʊ/ /u:/ /ɑ:/
3. When I went to their home Jack and Lisa showed me their new bathroom.
- /eə/ /əʊ/ /ɒ/ /ʌ/ /i:/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /i:/ /aʊə/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/
4. Sarah and Noel were watching funny DVDs in their living room for three hours last night.
- /eɪ/ /ɪ/ /ʌ/ /ɑ:/ /æ/ /ɑ:/
5. Jason has finished cutting the grass in the back garden.
- /æ/ /u:/ /ɒ/ /ʌ/ /e/ /aɪ/ /i:/
6. Barry has to do the washing up every night after tea.
- /u:/ /u:/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /ɑ:/
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- /e/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /ʊ/ /aʊ/ /ɒ/ /aɪ/ /aʊ/
8. If you sell your horrible flat you'll be able to put down a deposit on a nice house.

Free Time

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1. I love going to the cinema with my friends, because we always have a good time.
- /ɑ:/ /ɒ/ /ɔɪ/ /eɪ/ /aʊ/ /u:/ /ɑ:/
2. Barney and Wanda are enjoying a day out at an amusement park.
- /e/ /æ/ /ɒ/ /ɑ:/ /ʌ/ /u:/ /i:/
3. We went on a camping holiday last summer for two weeks.
- /e/ /ʌ/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /e/ /u:/ /e/ /ʌ/ /əʊ/ /ʌ/
4. Chester's son was playing golf badly yesterday afternoon with a few friends from his cousin's bowling club.
- /i:/ /e/ /ɪə/ /aɪ/ /aɪ/
5. I have seen Macbeth at this theatre five times.
- /u:/ /e/ /eɪ/ /u:/ /eɪ/ /ɔ:/ /eɪ/
6. You should do some exercise instead of playing computer games all day.
- /i:/ /e/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /e/ /ɑ:/
7. Me, Jess and Casey are going to watch the tennis in the park.
- /e/ /e/ /ɪ/ /əʊ/ /əʊ/ /ɪ/
8. If the leisure centre is still open we can all go swimming.