

Phonetics and phonology:
2. Prosody (revision)
Part I: Stress (compound and phrase)

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1. Stress in compound nouns and
phrases (cont'd)

Wells 2006
Hewings 2007: 38-43

Compounds

- Many “noun + noun” **compounds** have primary stress on the first element.
- The second element is **not** stressed.
- 'armchair, 'sunflower (closed compounds)
- 'front-runner, 'she-devil (hyphenated)
- 'side salad, 'bank manager (open compounds)

Phrases

- However, **phrases** consist of two or more lexical items (e.g. “adjective + noun”).
- 'beautiful 'flowers, a 'bitter disap'pointment
- Compare:
- The 'White House / a 'white 'house
- A 'blackbird / a 'black 'bird

Nota bene

- London Underground lines have stress on the first element (lexicalized contrastive focus):
the 'Central Line
the 'Northern Line
the ,Picca'dilly Line

Double-stressed compounds

- However, some “noun + noun” compounds have primary stress on their second element (**double-stressed** compounds).
- ,Christmas 'Eve, ,Town 'Hall, ,ham 'sandwich

- Compare:
 - 'Christmas card / ,Christmas 'Eve
 - 'high school / ,King's 'College

Double-stressed compounds

- Proper names of people:
,James Mc'Gregor, De,nise 'Harris
- Proper names of roads and public places:
Vic,toria 'Road, ,Oxford 'Avenue (except those ending in *street*: 'Oxford Street, 'Downing Street)
- Names of institutions such as hotels and schools:
,Jury's 'Inn, ,Marlborough 'Hotel, ,Goldsmith's 'College, ,Bailey's 'Restaurant, the ,Festival 'Hall
(*but* 'high school, 'secondary school, 'Pizza Hut)

Double-stressed compounds

- Compounds in which the first element names the place or time:
,Town 'Hall, ,kitchen 'window, ,summer va'cation, ,evening 'meal
(*but* 'Boxing Day, 'Christmas ,present, 'Christmas card, 'birthday card)
- Compare:
,Christmas 'Eve, ,Christmas 'Day, ,Christmas 'pudding)

Double-stressed compounds

- Compounds in which the first element names the material or ingredient

ˌleather ˈjacket, ˌcheese ˈsandwich, ˌpork ˈchop
(except those ending in *juice*, *cake* or *bread*:
ˈorange juice, ˈcarrot cake, ˈgingerbread)

- Compare:

ˌcotton ˈwool (material)

a ˈcotton plant

Wells (2006)

Hewings (2007: 38)

Practice: London place names

- Listen to place names and identify the stress pattern.

Other types of compound nouns

- noun + -ing (gerund)

ˈbirdwatching, ˈhouse-hunting, ˈfly-fishing

Exceptions: peˌdestrian ˈcrossing, ˌthanksˈgiving

- -ing (gerund) + noun

ˈdressing gown, ˈsitting room, ˈfreezing point

cf. -ing (participle) + noun

ˌmanaging diˈrector, deˌfining ˈmoment, ˌcasting
ˈvote

- verb + noun

ˈsearch party, conˈtrol tower, ˈthink tank

Hewings (2007: 38)

Abbreviations

- Two-, three-, and four-letter abbreviations said as individual letters often have main stress on the last letter and secondary stress on the first:

the ˌEˈU

the ˌUˈK

the ˌBBˈC

ˌDNˈA

the ˌYMCˈA

Exercise

- 1. She's the company's CEO.
- 2. She works as a nurse for the NHS.
- 3. There aren't many people here who speak RP.
- 4. She just needs a lot of rest and a bit of TLC.
- 5. If there are no delays, what's your ETA.
- 6. He spends most weekends doing DIY.
- 7. The eclipse is at 9 o'clock GMT.

Hewings (2007: 41)

Exercise

- 1. She's the company's CEO.
/ʃɪz ðə 'kʌmpənɪz ,si: i: 'əʊ/
- 2. She works as a nurse for the NHS.
/ʃi 'wɜ:kəs əz ə 'nɜ:s fə ði ,en eɪtʃ 'es/
- 3. There aren't many people here who speak RP.
/ðə 'ɑ:nt 'meni 'pi:pl 'hɪə hu: 'spi:k ,ɑ: 'pi:/
- 4. She just needs a lot of rest and a bit of TLC.
/si 'dʒʌs(t) 'ni:dz ə 'lɒt əv 'rest ən ə 'bɪt əv ,ti: el 'si:/

Hewings (2007: 41)

Exercise

- 5. If there are no delays, what's your ETA.
/ɪf ðə 'nəʊ dɪ'leɪz / 'wɒts jər ,i: ti: 'eɪ/
- 6. He spends most weekends doing DIY.
/hi 'spendz 'məʊst ,wi:'kendz 'du:ɪŋ ,di: aɪ 'waɪ/
- 7. The eclipse is at 9 o'clock GMT.
/ði ɪ'klɪps ɪz ət 'naɪn ə'klɒk ,dʒi: em 'ti:/
- Greenwich /'ɡrenɪdʒ 'ɡrɪnɪdʒ /

Hewings (2007: 41)

2. Stress in phrasal verbs

Hewings 2007: 44-47

Phrasal verbs: case 1 One-stress phrasal verbs

- The particle in most one-stress phrasal verbs is a **preposition** :
'dream of: I wouldn't 'dream of asking you to do it.
'hear from: We never 'heard from them again.

Phrasal verbs: case 1 One-stress phrasal verbs

- N.B.1: particle highlighted for emphasis or contrast
'hear of / 'hear from:
A: I'm surprised you've never 'heard of him.
B: I didn't say I hadn't 'heard 'of him, I said I hadn't 'heard 'from him.
- N.B.2: strong form is used clause-finally
'live for: He 'lives for /fə/ his work.
She felt she had nothing to 'live for /fɔ:/.
'think of: I was just 'thinking of /əv/ you.

Phrasal verbs: case 2 Two-stress phrasal verbs

- The particle in two-stress phrasal verbs is usually (used as) an **adverb**:
,hang a'round: It was freezing cold, so I didn't want to ,hang a'round.
,get a'long: My brother and I don't really ,get a'long together.
,call 'back: I'm busy at the moment. Can I ,call you 'back?
,write 'down: I'll never remember the number. Can you ,write it 'down for me?

Phrasal verbs: One- or two-stress phrasal verbs?

- Particle used as a preposition or adverb?
'live on: He had to 'live on less than \$10 a day.
(= the amount of money he had to buy things)
,live 'on: The tradition ,lives 'on in many parts of the country. (= continues)
'come to: How much does all that 'come to?
(= what's the total cost?)
,come 'to: She hasn't ,come 'to yet after the accident. (= regained consciousness)

Exercise

One- or two-stress phrasal verbs?

- The birds came close, but when I sneezed, I ,frightened them a'way.
- 1. She said she'd be early, but I wouldn't bank on it.
- 2. He gave us a lot of information that I couldn't take in.
- 3. I couldn't do question six, so I left it out.
- 4. Dan said he'd phone today, but I haven't heard from him.

Exercise

One- or two-stress phrasal verbs?

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- 1. She said she'd be early, but I wouldn't 'bank on it.
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Exercise

One- or two-stress phrasal verbs?

- 5. If you're passing, why don't you stop by?
- 6. You look well. Living by the sea must agree with you.
- 7. There isn't anyone but you that I can confide in.
- 8. Having my own boat is something I've always dreamed about.

Exercise

One- or two-stress phrasal verbs?

- 5. If you're passing, why don't you ,stop 'by?
- 6. You look well. Living by the sea must a'gree with you.
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Phrasal verbs: case 3 Three-word phrasal verbs

- **verb + adverb + preposition** :

ˌlook 'up to: I'd always ˌlooked 'up to her.

ˌgrow 'out of: The dress was small and she soon ˌgrew 'out of it.

ˌgo 'through with: When the time came to leave, I couldn't ˌgo 'through with it.

ˌput 'up with: I was finding it hard to ˌput 'up with him.

Hewings (2007: 46)

Two-stress phrasal verbs and compound nouns

- Many compound nouns come from two-stress phrasal verbs:

ˌmix 'up / 'mix-up:

I got the times ˌmixed 'up.

There was a 'mix-up over times.

ˌwarm 'up / 'warm-up:

It is important to ˌwarm 'up before exercise.

He hurt his ankle during the 'warm-up.

ˌwash 'out / 'washout:

The tennis match was ˌwashed 'out.

It was a 'washout.

Hewings (2007: 46)