

Phonetics and phonology:
2. Prosody (revision)
Part I: Stress (stress shift)

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3. Stress shift

Stress shift

- English tends to avoid sequences of two stressed syllables (e.g. ooOOooo).
- In order to avoid this, stress in some polysyllabic words may move to an earlier syllable (with secondary stress) when combined with another word starting with a stress:
- Heath'row / ,Heathrow 'Airport (-> 'Heathrow)
- ,Picca'dilly / ,Picca(,)dilly 'Circus
- ,aca'demic / ,academic 'dress



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Stress shift

- She's ,Japa'nese.
- She's a 'Japanese 'journalist.
- He's a ,refu'gee.
- We saw photos of 'refugee 'children.
- ,thir'teen / 'thirteen 'women
- 'absolute 'zero

Exercise

- We 'used to 'live near the 'Berlin 'Wall.
 - She's 'got a 'job in Ber'lin.
1. I'm 'working on my pronunciation.
 2. It was 'just a routine job.
 3. The 'film was 'made for propa'ganda purposes.
 4. The 'region has a Mediterranean climate.
 5. 'Next 'month she'll be sixteen.
 6. There was a satisfactory outcome.
 7. The 'country was de'clared independent.

2022-2023

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Hewings (2007: 27) 5

Exercise

- We 'used to 'live near the 'Berlin 'Wall.
 - She's 'got a 'job in Ber'lin.
1. I'm 'working on my pro,nunci'ation.
 2. It was 'just a 'routine 'job.
 3. The 'film was 'made for ,propa'ganda purposes.
 4. The 'region has a 'Mediterranean 'climate.
 5. 'Next 'month she'll be six'teen.
 6. There was a 'satisfactory 'outcome.
 7. The 'country was de'clared ,inde'pendent.

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Hewings (2007: 27) 6

Exercise

8. I 'love 'living 'next to the Mediterranean.
9. It 'costs sixteen euros.
10. The 'book was just political propa'ganda.
11. The ,ope'ration was 'quite routine.
12. They ap'pointed an independent judge.
13. The re'sult was satisfactory.
14. I'm 'doing a pronunciation course.

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Hewings (2007: 27) 7

Exercise

8. I 'love 'living 'next to the ,Mediter'anean.
9. It 'costs 'sixteen 'euros.
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11. The ,ope'ration was 'quite rou'tine.
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Stress shift: prefixed words

- Her 'answer was ,impre'cise.
- She 'gave an 'imprecise 'answer.
- He's ,hyper'active.
- I 'work with 'hyperactive 'children.
- He ,disa'greed.
- He 'disagreed 'strongly.

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Hewings (2007: 36) 9

Stress shift: compound adjectives

- The 'tiger was ,fully-'grown.
- It was a 'fully-grown 'tiger.

- The 'prices were ,sky-'high.
- They were 'sky-high 'prices.

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Hewings (2007: 40) 10

Stress shift: abbreviations

- He 'works for the ,BB'C.
- He 'works for 'BBC 'radio.

- She's from the ,U'K.
- She's a 'UK 'citizen.

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Hewings (2007: 40) 11

Exercise

1. My 'laptop was 'advertised in a magazine called PC world.
2. The AGM (Annual General Meeting)'s cancelled.
3. We 'followed 'all the WHO guidelines.
4. They're 'meeting at the EU summit in 'Brussels.
5. The 'software is on a CD-ROM.

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Hewings (2007: 41) 12

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