

Getting the right stress in English words

Introduction

Learners need to recognize and use the stress pattern of a word. This means that when they learn a word they should attend to the number of syllables, and which one is stressed at the same time as learning its meaning and spelling. This will improve their listening and speaking and give them confidence.

Aim of worksheet

This worksheet helps students to become more familiar with stress patterns in words, and to see the stress pattern as an important part of the identity of that word.

Time and materials

Allow five minutes for each activity. Students will need a dictionary to help them check their answers.

Procedure

- Go through the introduction with the class and ensure that students understand what the stress pattern of a word is and how this information is shown in the dictionary.
- Get students to do activities 1 to 4 and ask them to check their answers in small groups or pairs first, then discuss any problems with the whole class.

Answers

► Activity 1

	2	3	4
a computer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b ceremony	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c careful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e content (noun)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h currency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	2	3	4
i commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j command	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m career	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n content (adjective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

► Activity 2

Ooo	oOo	oO	Oo	Oooo	oOoo
character	computer	command	careful	ceremony	certificate
currency	collection	career	content (noun)		
confidence	commercial	content (adjective)	contact		

► Activity 3

James Bond is sent to Jamaica to investigate the sudden disappearance of the island's Governor and his assistant. When he arrives, 007 begins to suspect that the Governor's absence is in some way linked to Dr No, the reclusive owner of a remote island which lies between Cuba and Jamaica. There have been several strange deaths on this island, which the local people blame on a mysterious and terrifying 'dragon'. Bond decides to pay a secret visit to the island. But he is not the only person to land there.

► Activity 4

Stress on 1st syllable: sudden, island, Governor, absence, Dr, owner, Cuba, several, local, people, terrifying, dragon, secret, visit, only, person

Stress on 2nd syllable: Jamaica, investigate, assistant, arrives, begins, suspect, reclusive, remote, between, mysterious, decides

Stress on 3rd syllable: disappearance, 007