

English Pronunciation: Word Stress Basics

Level A1 · Lesson 1

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 42

Language Focus: What is Word Stress?

In English, words with more than one syllable have one syllable that is said **louder and longer** than the others. This is called **word stress**. We show the stressed syllable with capital letters, e.g. **TA**-ble, **MO**-ther, **HAP**-py.

Rule for A1: Most two-syllable nouns and adjectives in English are stressed on the **first** syllable.

Word	Stress Pattern	Syllables
table	TA-ble	2
window	WIN-dow	2
mother	MOTH-er	2
happy	HAP-py	2
beautiful	BEAU-ti-ful	3
newspaper	NEWS-pa-per	3

Exercise 1: True or False (8 points)

1. In the word "table", the stress is on the first syllable. True / False
2. In the word "coffee", the stress is on the second syllable. True / False
3. We say HAP-py, not hap-PY. True / False
4. In the word "garden", the stressed syllable is "den". True / False
5. In the word "teacher", the first syllable is louder than the second. True / False
6. In the word "yellow", both syllables have equal stress. True / False
7. We say moth-ER, not MOTH-er. True / False
8. In the word "window", the stress is on "win". True / False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correctly stressed form of each word.

1. **table** a) TA-ble b) ta-BLE
2. **window** a) win-DOW b) WIN-dow
3. **mother** a) MOTH-er b) moth-ER
4. **father** a) fa-THER b) FA-ther
5. **sister** a) SIS-ter b) sis-TER
6. **teacher** a) teach-ER b) TEACH-er
7. **garden** a) GAR-den b) gar-DEN
8. **coffee** a) cof-FEE b) COF-fee

Exercise 3: Matching (8 points)

Say each word aloud. Write **a** or **b** next to each word to show its stress category. **Warning:** some of these words do not follow the first-syllable rule!

a) Stress on the 1st syllable **b)** Stress on the 2nd syllable

Word	Category (a or b)
1. table	_____
2. about	_____
3. garden	_____
4. before	_____
5. away	_____
6. teacher	_____
7. again	_____
8. yellow	_____

Exercise 4: Word Sort (10 points)

Write each word in the correct box: table, window, mother, garden, coffee, happy, beautiful, newspaper, family, yesterday.

2 syllables	3 syllables

Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

Write the number of syllables in each word.

1. The word "**sister**" has _____ syllables.
2. The word "**teacher**" has _____ syllables.
3. The word "**yellow**" has _____ syllables.
4. The word "**happy**" has _____ syllables.
5. The word "**beautiful**" has _____ syllables.
6. The word "**newspaper**" has _____ syllables.
7. The word "**family**" has _____ syllables.
8. The word "**yesterday**" has _____ syllables.

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Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. In the word "table", the stress is on the first syllable. — **True**
2. In the word "coffee", the stress is on the second syllable. — **False**
3. We say HAP-py, not hap-PY. — **True**
4. In the word "garden", the stressed syllable is "den". — **False**
5. In the word "teacher", the first syllable is louder than the second. — **True**
6. In the word "yellow", both syllables have equal stress. — **False**
7. We say moth-ER, not MOTH-er. — **False**
8. In the word "window", the stress is on "win". — **True**

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **table** — correct answer: **a) TA-ble**
2. **window** — correct answer: **b) WIN-dow**
3. **mother** — correct answer: **a) MOTH-er**
4. **father** — correct answer: **b) FA-ther**
5. **sister** — correct answer: **a) SIS-ter**
6. **teacher** — correct answer: **b) TEACH-er**
7. **garden** — correct answer: **a) GAR-den**
8. **coffee** — correct answer: **b) COF-fee**

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

- table — **a) Stress on the 1st syllable**
- garden — **a) Stress on the 1st syllable**
- teacher — **a) Stress on the 1st syllable**
- yellow — **a) Stress on the 1st syllable**
- about — **b) Stress on the 2nd syllable**

before — **b) Stress on the 2nd syllable**

away — **b) Stress on the 2nd syllable**

again — **b) Stress on the 2nd syllable**

Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers

2 syllables: table, window, mother, garden, coffee, happy

3 syllables: beautiful, newspaper, family, yesterday

Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers

1. sister — **2 syllables**

2. teacher — **2 syllables**

3. yellow — **2 syllables**

4. happy — **2 syllables**

5. beautiful — **3 syllables**

6. newspaper — **3 syllables**

7. family — **3 syllables**

8. yesterday — **3 syllables**