

Lecture 4:

STRESS PLACEMENT IN COMPOUND WORDS

Introduction:

Compound words are formed from a combination of two or more elements that constitutes on semantic unit. They normally contain a single primary accent on one syllable, another syllable carrying a secondary accent. There are three types of compound words in English as follows:

- **Use of hyphen:** Good-hearted, life-saver, one-way, well-done, part-time.
- **Closed compounds:** Armchair, postman, teapot, crossword, goodwill.
- **Open compounds:** Cassette recorder, coffee machine, phone call, ice age.

1. Stress in compound words composed of two nouns or gerund +noun

Compound words composed of two nouns usually receive stress on the first element.

E.g: Airplane /'eəpleɪn/; Deadline /'dedlaɪn/; classroom /'klɑ:sru:m/ ; timetable /'taɪmteɪbl/

Home-builder /'həʊbɪldə/; rock-climber/'rɒk,klaɪmə/; front-runner /'frʌnt,rʌnə/

Air conditioner /'eə kən,dɪʃnə/; olive oil /'ɒlɪv,ɔɪl/; credit card; swimming pool

Exceptions: headmaster week-end mankind

Activity: transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Air-raid		Backache	
Clothes brush		Earthquake	
Tea cup		Button hole	
Copyright		Shopkeeper	
Waiting-room		Dining -room	
Cleaning cloth		Shopping- bag	

More practice: stress these compound nouns

Notebook, bookstore, toothbrush, keyboard, armchair, mailbox, headphones, headquarters, rainbow, battery charger, suitcase, lipstick, bus stop, hometown

2. Stress in compound words composed of adjective and 'ed'

Compound words composed of an adjective and 'ed' morpheme at the end receive stress on the second element.

Activity: transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Bad-tempered		Full-grown	
Well-educated		Heavy-hearted	
Barefooted		Blue-eyed	
Well-dressed		Long-sighted	

3. Stress in compound words composed of adjective and gerund

Compound words composed of an **adjective** and a **gerund** at the end receive stress on the second element.

E.g: good- 'looking , easy- 'going , ,global 'warming, ,central 'heating

4. Compounds in which the first element is a number: the second element is stressed

Activity: transcribe the following words and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Three-wheeler		One-eyed	
Second class		Three cornered	

5. Compounds functioning as adverbs are usually finally stressed

E.g: ,North - 'east , down- 'stream , a ,bove- 'mentioned ; ,good 'bye

6. Compounds which function as verbs and have an adverbial element first

Compound words which function as **verbs** and have an adverbial element first take final stress.

E.g: ,ill- 'treat, ,back- 'pedal, ,down- 'grade, ,upside 'down, ,back- 'pedal, ,look 'like, ,get 'through

Activity: transcribe the following compound adverbs and mark stress

Word	Transcription	Word	Transcription
Upstairs		Hereby	
Uphill		Outside	

7. Phrasal verbs are stressed on the second element

E.g: ,Let 'down ,take 'over ,turn 'off

But the same words can be used as nouns, in this case the first element is stressed like: 'make up 'take off

8- Compounds which include past participle + noun are stressed on the second element

E.g: lost property, in ,verted 'comma, split infinitive

