

Saturday September 13th

Introducing word stress

A

If a word has more than one syllable, you give stress to one of the syllables. To give it stress, do one or more of these to the syllable:

- Make it longer. **S**aturday
- Make it louder. **Sat**urday
- Make it higher. **Sat**urday

We can show stress with circles: each circle is a syllable and the bigger circle shows which syllable has the stress. For example, *Saturday* is Ooo.

B5 Listen to the conversation and listen to the stress patterns of the words in bold type.

A: When do you **begin** your holiday?

o O O o o

B: On the **thirtieth** of August.

O o o O o

A: That's next **Saturday**!

O o o

B: We're leaving in the **afternoon**.

o o O

A: And when are you coming back?

B: **Saturday** **September** the **thirteenth**.

o O o o O

A: **Thirtieth**?

O o o

B: No, **thirteenth**!

o O



B

B6 Different words have different stress patterns (patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables). Listen to these two- and three-syllable words.

Oo April, **thirty**, morning, Sunday

oOo September, tomorrow, **eleventh**

oO July, midday, **thirteen**, today, **thirteenth**

ooO afternoon, **seventeen**, twenty-one

Ooo Saturday, **thirtieth**, yesterday, holiday, **seventy**

⚠ Note: The stress pattern of numbers with *-teen* is sometimes different when the word is in a sentence. For example, the normal stress pattern of *nineteen* is oO, but when it is followed by a noun, e.g. *the nineteen nineties*, *nineteen people*, the pattern is Oo.

⚠ Note: *January* and *February* may be pronounced with the stress patterns Ooo or Oooo.

C

Stress patterns can help you hear the difference between similar words, for example, numbers ending in *-teen* or *-ty*. Listen to these examples.

B7

oO

thirteen

fourteen

sixteen

eighteen

nineteen

Oo

thirty

forty

sixty

eighty

ninety



Note: You can find more about word stress in Units 28 to 31.

Exercises

22.1 Write the full words in the correct column, according to their stress pattern.

Mon	Tues	Thu	Sat	today	tomorrow	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Nov	holiday	2nd	11th	13	30	13th	30th	17	70	afternoon
Oo	oO	Ooo	oOo	ooO						
Monday										

22.2 Write one word from 22.1 in each sentence below. The word must have the stress pattern shown. Then say the sentences.

- 1 I'm going to have a party on (Ooo).
- 2 My grandfather is (Ooo) years old.
- 3 I often sleep for an hour in the (ooO).
- 4 My birthday is on the (oOo) of March.
- 5 In Europe, the weather is warm in (oO).
- 6 I left school when I was (ooO).
- 7 Goodnight. See you (oOo).
- 8 How long is your summer (Ooo)?

22.3 Find a way from Start to Finish. You may pass a square only if the word has the stress pattern Ooo. You can move horizontally (↔) or vertically (↑↓) only.

START			
eightieth	twentieth	thirtieth	September
twenty-one	thousand	yesterday	October
November	sixtieth	seventy	eleventh
second	fortieth	thirteen	seventeen
vacation	holiday	tomorrow	afternoon
December	Saturday	ninetieth	fiftieth
FINISH			

22.4 Listen and circle the number you hear.



- 1 100 dollars! It only cost 17 / 70 last year!
- 2 He was the 14th / 40th President of my country.
- 3 The maximum number of people is 15 / 50.
- 4 She was born in 1916 / 1960.
- 5 He was 13 / 30 on his last birthday.
- 6 She'll be 18 / 80 in March.

Now go to Unit 42

Remember, he told her

Introducing sentence stress

- A** **B9** Individual words have a stress pattern, that is a pattern of strong and weak syllables. Sentences also have a stress pattern, and this is *sentence stress*. Sometimes a word and a sentence have the same stress pattern. Listen to these examples.

O o o		o O o		o o O	
word	sentence	word	sentence	word	sentence
photograph	Answer me!	September	Excuse me.	afternoon	Do you smoke?
Canada	Doesn't he?	tomorrow	I think so.	Japanese	One of these?
cabbages	Copy it!	remember	He told her.	Portuguese	He's arrived.

- B** **B10** Short sentences and phrases in English have some typical stress patterns. Listen to the examples.

OoO What's the time? Yes, of course! Thanks a lot!
 OoOo See you later! Pleased to meet you! Can't you hear me?
 oOoO A piece of cake. The shop was closed. It's time to go.
 OooO What do you do? Where do you live? Give me a call.
 ooOo Are you coming? Do you like it? Is he happy?



Note: For more examples, see Section D5: *Sentence stress phrasebook*.

- C** There is normally a space between stressed syllables in a sentence. Unstressed syllables can be put in that space. The space stays more or less the same length whether one or more unstressed syllables are pushed into it. So for example, these three sentences take about the same length of time to say. Listen.



OOO Don't tell Mike.
 OoOoOo Go and speak to Mary.
 OooOooOoo Hurry and give it to Jonathan.

- D** Stress patterns can help you hear the difference between similar sentences. For example, verbs with the negative ending *-n't* are always stressed. This helps us to hear the difference between *can* and *can't* in the following two sentences, because the two sentences have different stress patterns.

ooO He can talk.

oOO He can't talk.



Note: You can find more about sentence stress in Units 32 to 40.

Exercises

- 23.1 Listen and underline the sentence which does *not* have the same stress pattern as the word at the beginning of the line.

B12

EXAMPLE

Ooo	cinema	Wasn't it?	Hasn't she?	<u>Don't you?</u>
1 oOo	tomato	Close the door.	He told me.	I like it.
2 ooO	afternoon	Does he drive?	Were you cold?	What happened?
3 oOo	December	It's open.	They arrived.	They listened.

- 23.2 Write these sentences in the correct column. Then listen, check and repeat.

B13

The bus was late.	Come and look.	Close the window.	What do you want?
The water's cold.	Give me a call.	What did she say?	Phone and tell me.
Nice to see you.	Where's the car?	It's cold and wet.	What's the time?

OooO	oOoO	OoO	OoOo
	The bus was late.		

- 23.3 Combine phrases from the boxes A, B and C to make three sentences or phrases with these patterns: OOO OoOoOo OooOooOoo. Then listen, check and repeat.

B14

EXAMPLE

A	B	C	
Half a	bottle of	beer	OOO One cold beer.
One	glass of	orange juice	OoOoOo Half a glass of water.
Give me a	cold	water	OooOooOoo Give me a bottle of orange juice.

A	B	C	
Doesn't	Jennifer	listen	OOO
Can't you make	Pete	talk to you	OoOoOo
Can't	Oscar	drive	OooOooOoo

- 23.4 Listen and tick the sentence you hear, A or B.

B15

A	B
1 I can swim.	1 I can't swim.
2 Are you coming?	2 Aren't you coming?
3 We were tired.	3 We weren't tired.
4 She can help you.	4 She can't help you.
5 Can you see?	5 Can't you see?
6 They were talking.	6 They weren't talking.

Now go to Unit 43