

# REcord, reCORD

## Stress in two-syllable words

## A

Many two-syllable words come from a one-syllable word. For example, the word *artist* comes from the word *art*, and the word *remove* comes from the word *move*. In these two-syllable words, the stress is on the syllable of the original word:

**artist** = Oo (stress on the first syllable)      **remove** = oO (stress on the second syllable)

Here are some more examples.

nouns and adjectives Oo	verbs oO
art – artist	move – remove
drive – driver	like – dislike
friend – friendly	build – rebuild
fame – famous	come – become

## B

Most two-syllable **nouns** and **adjectives** have stress on the first syllable, even if they don't come from an original one-syllable word. For example, 'brother' doesn't come from the original word 'broth', but it still has the stress pattern Oo.

B36

Listen to this sentence: the nouns and adjectives all have the pattern Oo.

The artist's most famous picture shows some women and children in a lovely forest with a purple mountain behind.



**Note:** However, there are a number of exceptions to this general rule, for example *asleep*, *mistake*, *machine*, *alone*, which have stress on the second syllable.

## C

Most two-syllable **verbs** have stress on the second syllable, even if they don't come from an original one-syllable word. For example, 'repeat' doesn't come from the original word 'peat', but it still has the stress pattern (oO).

Listen to this sentence: the verbs all have the pattern oO.

B37

Escape to Scotland, forget about work, just relax and enjoy the scenery!



**Note:** There are a number of exceptions to this general rule, for example *cancel*, *copy* and two-syllable verbs ending in *-er* and *-en*, e.g. *answer*, *enter*, *offer*, *listen*, *happen*, *open*, which all have stress on the first syllable.

## D

B38

Some words are both nouns and verbs. For example, *record* is a noun if you put stress on the first syllable, and a verb if you put stress on the second syllable. Listen to these examples. You will hear each word twice, first as a noun and then as a verb.

record contrast desert export object present produce protest rebel



**Note:** There is not always a change of stress in words that are both nouns and verbs. For example *answer*, *picture*, *promise*, *reply*, *travel*, *visit* always have stress on the same syllable.



**Note:** The stress stays in the same place when we make longer words from these two-syllable nouns, adjectives and verbs. For example, in both *happy* (Oo) and *unhappy* (oOo), the stress is on the syllable *happ*, and in both *depart* (oO) and *departure* (oOo), the stress is on the syllable *part*.



## Exercises

- 28.1** Make the word in (brackets) into a verb beginning with 'r' and a noun ending with 'r' and use the words to fill the gaps. Then say the sentences. Take care to use the correct stress patterns for the words in the gaps: Oo for the nouns and oO for the verbs. Listen and check.

B39

EXAMPLE

(build) I asked the builder to rebuild the wall.

- 1 (act) How did you ..... when you saw the ..... coming in?
- 2 (write) The ..... decided to ..... the whole book.
- 3 (paint) The ..... tried to ..... this part of the picture.
- 4 (print) We asked the ..... to ..... the whole document.
- 5 (view) The ..... will be able to ..... this programme tomorrow.
- 6 (play) They had to ..... the match after a ..... was hurt.

- 28.2** Listen and circle the word with a different stress pattern from the others.

B40

EXAMPLE money machine mountain message

- |           |         |         |         |             |          |         |          |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1 answer  | agree   | allow   | attract | 5 complete  | common   | careful | crazy    |
| 2 middle  | minute  | mission | mistake | 6 pronounce | provide  | promise | prefer   |
| 3 compare | correct | copy    | collect | 7 shampoo   | shoulder | shower  | shopping |
| 4 garden  | granny  | guitar  | grammar | 8 reason    | remove   | receive | review   |

- 28.3** Read the sentences and decide what stress pattern the words in **bold** have. Then listen, check and repeat.

B41

EXAMPLE I got my first **record** as a **present** when I was eleven.

record = Oo present = Oo

- 1 You've **progressed** well this year, but I'd like to see even more **progress**.  
progressed = ..... progress = .....
- 2 We **import** too much petrol and the country's **export** figures are going down.  
import = ..... export = .....
- 3 It started as a student **protest**, but now the army has **rebelled** against the government.  
protest = ..... rebelled = .....
- 4 In the **desert**, there is a big **contrast** between temperatures in the day and at night.  
desert = ..... contrast = .....
- 5 These companies **produce** household **objects** such as fridges and washing machines.  
produce = ..... objects = .....

Now go to Unit 48