

Second hand, bookshop

Stress in compound words

A

Compound words are made from two smaller words put together, for example *book + shop* = *bookshop*. (They are not always written as one word, for example *shoe shop*.) In most compound words, the stress is on the first part. For example, the word *bookshop* has two syllables and the stress is on the first syllable. Listen to these examples.

- B42 Oo bookshop, bus stop, footpath, airport, shoe shop, road sign, car park, bedroom
 Ooo traffic light, bus station, sunglasses, boarding card, window seat, check-in desk
 Oooo travel agent, art gallery, supermarket, tape recorder, photocopy



Note: If the first part of the compound word is an adjective, there may be stress on the second part too, for example OO *double room*.



Note: There may be stress on the second part of a compound noun when:

- the object in the second part is made out of the material in the first, for example OO *glass jar*;
- the first part tells us where the second part is, for example OO *car door*.

B

If the compound word is *not* a noun, we often put stress on the second part too. Listen to these examples.

- B43 OO first class, half price, hand made
 OOo bad-tempered, old-fashioned, short-sighted
 OoO overnight, second hand

C

Sometimes a compound word looks the same as

- a normal adjective and noun,
- a normal noun and verb.

But the pronunciation is different. Compare:

Oo compound word	OO adjective and noun
We keep these plants in a greenhouse during the winter months.	Mr Olsen lives in a small, green house next to the river.
OO compound word	OO noun and verb
I saw her bus pass .	I saw her bus pass .

1



2



Exercises

29.1 Listen. Write the words in bold in the correct columns.

B44

There's a good **shopping centre**. You can find almost **anything** there. There are **bookshops**, **shoe shops**, a **travel agent's**, a **post office**, a **hairdresser's**, a **supermarket**, **everything**... and there are a few **snack bars** if you want a **hamburger** or **something**. Oh, and there's a **sports centre** too, with a **swimming pool** and a **playground** for the kids. But be careful with your **handbag**; I had my **credit card** stolen there once!

Oo	Ooo	Oooo
bookshops	anything	shopping centre

Follow up: Record yourself saying the text. Make sure you put the stress in the correct place.

29.2 Listen. In each sentence, one of the compound words (in bold) has stress on the first part (Oo) and the other has stress on the second part too (OO). Circle the word if there is stress on the second part too.

B45

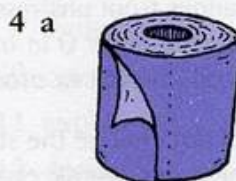
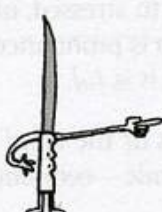
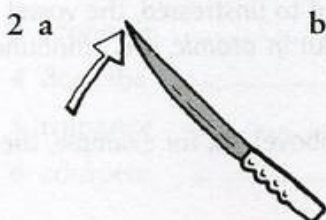
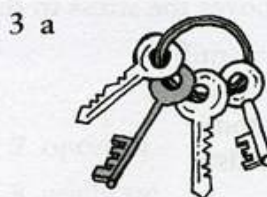
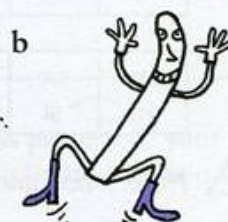
EXAMPLE They did the photocopies overnight.

- I got this **motorbike** second hand.
- Using a **typewriter** is so old fashioned.
- These **earrings** were hand made.
- I'm **short-sighted**, like my grandmother.
- All the **sunglasses** are half price.
- The waiting room is for first class only.

29.3 Listen. Which thing is the speaker asking about? Put a tick (✓) next to it and say Yes, I have or No, I haven't. Give a true answer!

B46

EXAMPLE Have you ever seen a ski jump?
No, I haven't!



Now go to Unit 49