

Unforgettable

Stress in longer words 1

A

We can build longer words by adding parts to the beginning or end of shorter words. Usually, this does not change the stress: it stays on the same syllable as in the original word. Look at the example below.

	for	get		
	for	get	ful	
	for	get	ful	ness
	for	gett	a	ble
un	for	gett	a	ble

Here are a list of beginnings and endings which do not change the stress of the shorter word:

-able (drinkable)	in-/im- (impossible)	-ness (happiness)
-al (musical)	-ise (civilise)	-ship (friendship)
-er (player)	-ish (childish)	un- (unhappy)
-ful (helpful)	-less (childless)	under- (underpay)
-hood (childhood)	-ly (friendly)	
-ing (boring)	-ment (employment)	

B

B47

Some endings *do* change the stress in the shorter word. Look how the ending *-ion* changes the stress in the word *educate*.

ed	u	cate	
ed	u	ca	tion

When we add the endings *-ion* or *-ian*, the stress always moves to the syllable *before* these endings. Here are some more examples.

e	lec	tric	
e	lec	tri	cian

dec	o	rate	
dec	o	ra	tion

mu	sic	
mu	si	cian

co	mmu	ni	cate	
co	mmu	ni	ca	tion



Note: *-tion* and *-cian* are pronounced /ʃən/.

C

B48

The ending *-ic* also moves the stress to the syllable before it. Listen to these examples.

scientist	scientific
economy	economic
atom	atomic
artist	artistic



Note: When a syllable changes from unstressed to stressed, or stressed to unstressed, the vowel sound often changes. For example the letter O in *atom* is pronounced /ə/, but in *atomic*, it is pronounced /ɒ/; the A in *atom* is pronounced /æ/, but in *atomic* it is /ə/.



Note: The ending *-al* does not change the stress of the word (see A above), so, for example, the stress is on the same syllable in these two words: *economic* *economical*.

Exercises

- 30.1** Use the beginnings and endings in A opposite to make longer words from the words below. Listen and check if you get the same words as on the recording. Then listen again and repeat.

B49

EXAMPLE

child childhood, childish, childishness, childless

1 believe

2 enjoy

3 care

- 30.2** Write the words from the box in the correct part of the table according to the stress pattern.

population	telecommunication	nation	identification	relation
communication	pronunciation	scientific	clinic	romantic
pessimistic	investigation	public	discussion	

Oo	
oOo	
ooOo	population
oooOo	
ooooOo	
oooooOo	

- 30.3** Combine each word with one of the endings from the box, and give the stress pattern of your new word. You may need to change or add other letters to the first word. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

-ion

-ic

EXAMPLE inform information ooOo

1 introduce

7 optimist

2 base

8 celebrate

3 economy

9 diplomat

4 describe

10 operate

5 romance

11 explain

6 compete

12 decide

Now go to Unit 50

Public, publicity

Stress in longer words 2

A

B50

There are many longer word endings where the last letter is -y. In words with these endings, the stress is placed on the syllable two from the end. Listen to these examples.

pub	lic		
pub	lic	i	ty

na	tion	al		
na	tio	nal	i	ty

pho	to	graph	
pho	tog	raph	y

cli	mate			
cli	ma	tol	o	gy

as	tro-		
a	stron	o	my

chem	ist	
chem	i	stry



Note: If we add the ending -ic to a word, the stress goes on the syllable before -ic. (See Unit 30.) Notice the change of stress, for example:
photography photographic.



Note: In words for an expert in the subject, such as *photographer* or *climatologist*, the stress stays on the same syllable as in the word ending in -y:
photography photographer
climatology climatologist

B

Many words for school and university subjects have one of the -y endings in this unit or the ending -ics. Listen to the names of subjects in this text.

B51

At school, I hated science subjects like **physics**, **chemistry** and **biology**, you know, and ehm... I wasn't very good at **mathematics** and things. I really liked subjects like **history**, **geography**, **economics**. Anyway, when I went to university, I wanted to do **geology**, but I couldn't 'cause I was no good at sciences, so in the end I did **philosophy**!



Note: Many English speakers do not pronounce the second syllable in *history*, so that it sounds like this: /'hɪstri/ Oo. The first part of the word *geography* may be pronounced as one or two syllables: /'dʒɒɡrəfi/ Ooo or /dʒi:'ɒɡrəfi/ oOoo. Many speakers do not pronounce the second syllable in *mathematics*, so it sounds like this: /mæθ'mætɪks/ oOo.

C

B52

If we combine the various endings in this unit and Unit 30, we can get 'families' of words with moving stress patterns. Listen to these examples.

photograph	photography	photographic	
economy	economics	economical	
national	nationality	nationalise	nationalisation
civil	civility	civilise	civilisation

Exercises

- 31.1** Make a word ending in *-ity* from each of these words, and give the stress pattern. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

EXAMPLE author *authority* *oOoo*

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 person | 5 nation |
| 2 universe | 6 real |
| 3 public | 7 human |
| 4 major | 8 electric |

- 31.2** Write the words from the box in the correct column according to their stress pattern.

economics	economy	physics	chemistry	geography /'dʒɒɡrəfi/
mathematics /məθə'mætɪks/		sociology	history /'hɪstri/	geology
photography	nation	nationality		

Oo	Ooo	oOoo	ooOoo	ooOo
				economics

- 31.3** Fill the gaps with a word from the box which has the stress pattern given. Then listen and check.

B53

biology mathematics history geography sociology ~~chemistry~~

My favourite subjects at school were sciences, especially Ooo *chemistry* and oOoo I've always been good with numbers, so I was good at oOo I didn't really like the social science subjects like ooOoo and Oo, and that's strange because when I went to university I did Ooo

- 31.4** Write in the word which is missing from the family. Then listen, check and repeat.

B54

EXAMPLE society, *sociology* (ooOoo), sociological

- civil, civilise, (oooOo)
- (oOoo), biologist, biological
- personal, (ooOoo), personalise
- legal, legalise, (oooOo)
- (Oo), authority, authorise

Now go to Unit 51