

DON'T LOOK NOW!

Sentences with all the words stressed

A

In a sentence, we put stress on one syllable of all the most important words. In some situations, emergencies for example, *all* of the words are important. In this case, there is stress on one syllable of all of the words (in some cases, the sentence may have only one word). Listen to the sentence stress in these examples.

B55

O Help! Quick! Smile!
 Oo Quiet! Sorry!
 OO Look out! Take care! Wake up! Don't move! Come back! Stand still! Sit down!
 OoO Don't forget! Hurry up! Go away! Stay awake! Don't be late!
 OOo Keep quiet! Don't worry!
 OOO Don't look now! Go straight on! Don't turn round!
 oOoo Emergency!

B

In English sentence stress, the following kinds of words are usually stressed. The examples given are from the sentences in A above.

verbs (*help*)

two-part verbs (*look out*)

adjectives (*quick*)

nouns (*emergency*)

negative auxiliary verbs (*don't*)



Note: Positive auxiliary verbs such as *be* in *Don't be late!* are not usually stressed.

C

Sentences with all the words stressed have a distinctive rhythm. You can hear this well in these chants. Listen.

B56

O O, O O
 Don't move! Take care!
 Keep calm! Stay there!



O O O

Go straight on!
 Don't look down!
 Go straight on!
 Don't turn round!



O O, O o O
 Don't stop! Carry on!
 Run! Run! Get away!
 Quick! Quick! Hurry up!



Exercises

- 32.1** Match each sentence with a sentence from the box with the same rhythm. Write the sentences in the correct place. Then listen, check and repeat.

B57

Don't move! Run! Don't worry! Go straight on! Go away! Sorry!

EXAMPLE OOO Don't be late! *Go away!*

- 1 Oo Silence!
 2 OOO Don't look down!
 3 O Wait!
 4 OO Get back!
 5 OOo Keep quiet!

- 32.2** What are they saying? Use the grammar and sentence stress information to guess.

EXAMPLE



Emergency!

oOoo (noun)

3



OoO (two-part verb)

1



O (verb)

4



OOO (negative auxiliary, two-part verb)

2



OO (two-part verb)

5



Oo (adjective)

- 32.3** Listen and complete these chants. Then play the recording and say the chant at the same time.

B58

- 1 Don't sleep! *Stay* awake!
 Get dressed! Don't late!
 2 still! Stay there!
 Don't move! care!
 3 Say please! Don't rude!
 Sit ! Eat your food!

Now go to Unit 52

THAT could be the MAN

Unstressed words

A

All of the sentences below have three syllables with this stress pattern: OoO. The middle word in each sentence is unstressed because it is not as important as the other two words. Listen.

B59

O o O
 What's your name?
 Tom was right.
 Dogs can swim.
 Close the door!
 Wait and see.
 Go to bed!

B

These are the kinds of words which are not normally stressed, with example words from the sentences in A above.

pronouns (*your*)

the verb *be* (*was*)

auxiliary verbs (*can*)

articles (*the*)

conjunctions (*and, or*)

prepositions (*to*)



Note: Negative auxiliary verbs (*can't, don't, hasn't*, etc.) are usually stressed. See Unit 32.

Important
for listening

There may be more than one of these unstressed words between two stressed words. In the sentences below, each sentence has the same two stressed words with an increasing number of unstressed words between. Listen. Notice that the length of time between the two stressed words is about the same, however many unstressed words are fitted between.

B60

OO That man.
 OoO That's the man.
 OooO That was the man.
 OoooO That could be the man.



Note: Speakers can choose to put stress on words which are normally unstressed. They do this for emphasis or contrast. (See Unit 49.)

Exercises

33.1 Give the stress patterns for these sentences.

EXAMPLE Go to the shops.OooO.....

1 Go to school.

4 What was in the news?

2 Where was the key?

5 What's your name?

3 Tell John.

33.2 Put one of the unstressed words from the box in the middle of each phrase or sentence below. Then say the phrases or sentences with this stress pattern: OoO.

or my a it can some of are

1 Bring here!

5 Lots eggs.

2 Mel's nurse.

6 Pass fail?

3 Whales big.

7 Have bread.

4 Jane drive.

8 Where's bike?

33.3 Listen. How many unstressed words are there between the stressed words in each sentence? Write 0, 1, 2 or 3.

B61

EXAMPLE Drink ... milk. 3

1 Eat ... cheese.

5 Go ... shops.

2 That ... man.

6 Go ... home.

3 What ... name?

7 Turn ... right.

4 What ... for?

33.4 Complete each set of four sentences with the unstressed words given. Each sentence should have one more unstressed word than the sentence before, so that the four sentences have the same pattern as in the example. Then listen, check and repeat.

B62

EXAMPLE unstressed words: *it, some, with*

OO Eat cheese.

OoO Eat some cheese.

OooO Eat it with cheese.

OoooO Eat it with some cheese.

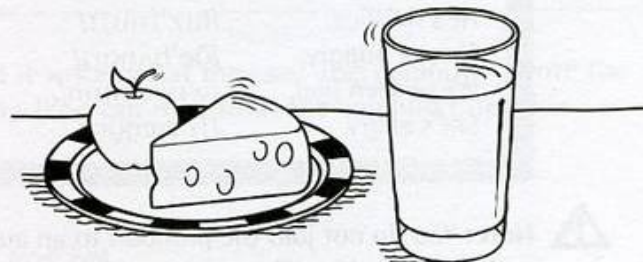
1 unstressed words: *it, of, the, some, with*

OO Drink milk.

OoO Drink milk.

OooO Drink milk.

OoooO Drink milk.



2 unstressed words: *it, the, to*

OO Turn right.

OoO Turn right.

OooO Turn right.

OoooO Turn right.

Now go to Unit 53