**Assistant Instructor**

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**Phonetics & Phonology**

**Ch.10**

**Stress in Simple Words**

**Second Stage**

**Stress**: the degree of force used in the pronunciation of a certain syllable.

* **Stress can be discussed from two perspectives : production (speaker) and perception (listener):**

1- Stress from the point of view of the speaker as an effort used in the production of the sound of the syllable.

2-Stress from the view point of listener, is the loudness of the specific sound by comparing it with another sound near it.

* **Stress is made by four important factors :**

1. **Loudness**, a stresses syllables are all louder than unstressed ones.

2. **Length**, a stressed syllable has a longer duration and strong vowels than unstressed syllable.

3. **Pitch**, each syllable of the word is produced either as low or high pitched. Stressed syllable is resulted as higher pitch which makes it prominent.

4. **Vowel quality**, stressed syllable contains a vowel that is different from other syllables around it.

**Four main levels of stress (primary, secondary, unstressed, tertiary):**

1- **Primary stress** is on the strongest syllable and more prominent in a word. It can be marked with a vertical mark [ ' ] placed above and in front of the syllable.

Examples :

Father / ˈfɑːðə /

About / əˈbaʊt /

Receive / rɪˈsiːv /

2-**Secondary Stress** is on the long words that have more than one syllable**,** it is weaker than primary stress (strong). It can be marked with a small vertical line below the syllable [ ] .

It Examples:

contradiction /‚kɑntrə'dɪkʃn /

Anthropology / ˌænθrəˈpɒləʤi /

Organization / ˌɔːgənaɪˈzeɪʃən /

* **Placement of stress,** **there is a strong relationship between stress and the class of the word ( noun, adjective or verb)**
* **Stress of two-syllable words:**
* **Verbs**

In verbs, we start from the second syllable:

1- If the second syllable is weak, stress is placed on the first such as ‘open’ ˈəʊpən. 2-If the second syllable is strong, stress is placed on it even if the first is also strong such as ‘maintain’ meɪnˈteɪn.

3-If the second syllable of the verb has the diphthong /əʊ/, it is weak so stress is placed on the first such as ‘follow’ ˈfɒləʊ.

* **Adjectives**

Adjectives follow the same rules of stress placement of verbs, except the two words ‘honest’ /'ɒnɪst/ and ‘perfect’ / 'pɜrfɪkt / where primary stress is placed on the first syllable.

* **Nouns**

In nouns, we start from the first syllable:

1-If the first is strong, stress is placed on it. In the word ‘money’ / 'mʌnɪ/ primary stress is placed on the first syllable.

2-If the first is weak, stress is placed on the second. In the word ‘balloon’, /bəˈlɒn/ stress is placed on the second syllable.

* **Stress Placement in Three-syllable Words:**
* **Verbs**

In verbs, we start from the third syllable:

1-If the third syllable is strong, stress is placed on it such as ‘entertain’ /entə'teɪn/.

2-If the third syllable is weak, stress is placed on the second (penultimate syllable) such as ‘encounter’ / ɪn'kaʊntə/.

3-If the third and second syllables of the verb are both weak, stress is placed on the first such as ‘monitor’ /'mɑnɪtər /.

* **Nouns & Adjectives**

In nouns, we start from the first syllable:

1- If the first is strong, stress is placed on it. In the word ‘quantity’ /'kwɑntətɪ/, primary stress is placed on the first syllable.

2-If the first is weak, stress is placed on the second. In the word ‘potato’ /pə'teɪtəʊ/ stress is placed on the second syllable.