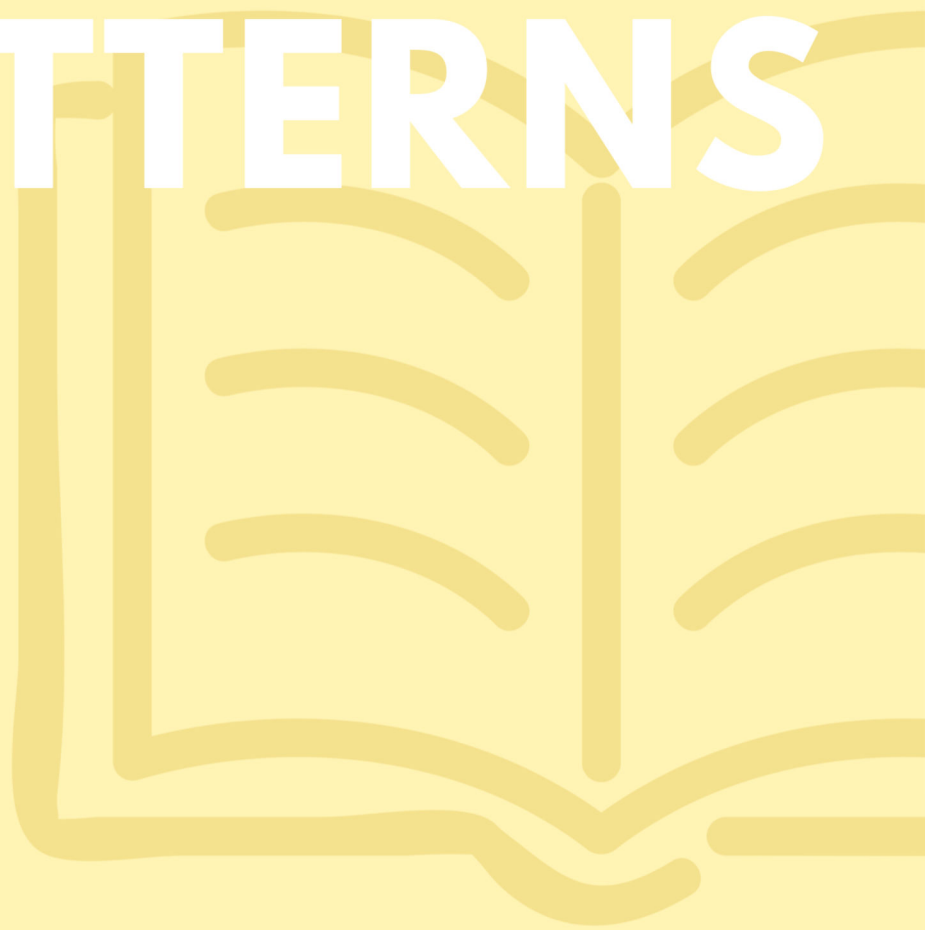


**AMERICAN  
ACCENT  
COACHING**

*with Audrey LeCrone*

# WORD STRESS PATTERNS



**SECTION 5 CLASS 4**

**LEARN THE TECHNICAL RULES OF WORD STRESS  
AND PRACTICE THEM IN A TEXT**

## Don't stress the Pronouns unless you're comparing!

He is **nice**. She was **lovely** to me. We had a great **evening**.  
**She** told me it was fine, but **they** disagreed.

My roommate and I love doing difficult puzzles.

The puzzle pieces come in all different sizes.

He sorts the puzzle by distinct colors.

On the other hand, I sort my puzzle pieces by their unique shapes.

Together we have finished many challenging pictures.

The current puzzle has an office chair, headphones,  
a desk lamp, and a smiling businessman.

Next we're going to conquer adult board games.

## Stress the nouns instead of the adjectives!

It's a gorgeous **day**. I found a brown **puppy**. The puppy had a dirty **collar**. We swam in the shimmering **lake**.

**However, if the adjective is at the end of the sentence,  
you CAN stress it.**

The day is **gorgeous**. The puppy I found is **brown**. Its collar was so **dirty**.

My roommate and I love doing difficult PUZZles.

comparing "hands," so the  
adjective is stressed!

The puzzle pieces come in all different SIZES.

He sorts the puzzle by distinct COLors.

On the other hand, I sort my puzzle pieces by their unique SHAPES.

Together we have finished many challenging PICTures.

The current puzzle has an office chair, headphones,

comparing current to previous,  
so adjective is stressed!

a desk lamp, and a smiling businessman.

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## COMPOUND noun

### Stress the first word

NEWSpaper

FIREman

BOOKcase

STAIRwell

WATERfall

SEAside

WALLpaper

BLACKbird

MAILbox

GREENhouse

SNOWball

RAINbow

RAINcoat

WEBSITE

FIREplace

ROOMmate

COFFEE cup

ALARM clock

OFFICE chair

HEADphones

## Compared to

### adjective NOUN

#### Stress the noun

purple COW

old CAR

red BOOK

nice GUY

big BUILDing

silly DOG

#### Proper nouns

#### Stress the second element

audrey LECRONE

george WASHINGTON

new YORK

los ANGELES

niagra FALLS

The president lives in the WHITE house

I live in a white HOUSE on the corner.

I ate a HOT dog

That's a hot DOG outside in the warm car.



Now try this paragraph again out loud with the compound nouns and adjective nouns stressed correctly.

**My roommate and I love doing difficult PUZZles.**

**The PUZZle pieces come in all different SIZES.**

**He sorts the puzzle by distinct COLors.**

**On the OTHer hand, I sort my PUZZle pieces by their unique SHAPES.**

**Together we have finished many challenging PICTures.**

**The CURRent puzzle has an OFFice chair, HEADphones,  
a DESK lamp, and a smiling BUSINESSman.**

**Next we're going to conquer adult BOARD games.**

## Practice Tip

Remember that in words with more than one syllable (i.e. syl-la-ble), you will only be stretching one syllable, not the entire word. So if you have the sentence "The exam is **comprehensive**," only the **HEN** in "comprehensive" will be stressed.

## HOMEWORK

Memorize these rules and try them out aloud. Find adjective nouns around you. (i.e. I see a large **DESK**, a happy **PLANT**, and a striped **LAMP**.) Then look for compound nouns. (i.e. I see a **LAPtop**, a **WINdow** sill, and a **PRINTer** cable.) When you're feeling comfortable with that, move on to an article or script of your choosing. Find the stress words. And remember, when in doubt, stress the end of the phrase or sentence!