

The pronunciation of English

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Quiz on stress next week!

The stress of nouns, verbs and adjectives; the types of secondary stress; endings and stress

Endings and stress

Neutral endings

- Neutral endings: no influence on stress

*límited, debáted, súpplemented, décorated
cómpromises, advántages, cátegorizes
stábilizer, intérpreter, abólishing, líkelihood,
pòlitícianhood, ínfinitely, définiteness,
fínalize, dócumentable*

– but *prefér* → *préferible*, *admíre* → *ádmirable*,
compáre → *cómparable*

Non-neutral endings

- Tonic (=self-stressed) endings
- Post-tonic (=stress-fixing) endings
- Weak endings

Tonic (=self-stressed) endings

paráde, lèmonáde
quèstionnáire, millionáire
degrée, réfugée
ènginéer, carréer
Chínése, Jàpanése
cassétte, cigarétte
techníque, critíque
ballóon, cartóon
pòetéss, mànageréss

Exceptions:

pédigree, cóffee,
commíttee
áctress, hóstess,
cóuntess, émpress
(disyllables in -ess;
but *príncéss* regular)

Post-tonic (=stress-fixing) endings

históric, àcadémic

tutórial, mànagerial

òpposition, dècoration

Canadian, grammarian

melódious, victórious

pecúliar, famíliar

habítual, perpetual

continuous

constituent

Stress on preceding syll.

-ic(al), -iV..., -uV...

Exc.: *Cátholic, pólitics,*
Árabic, aríthmetic, héretic
lúnatic, rhétoric, ársenic

spíritual (vs. habítual)

Weak endings

phótophograph → *photógraphy*

óorigin → *oríginal*

réal → *reálity*

rídicule → *ridículous*

(3-syllable window!)

horízon → *hòrizóntal*

(adjective: heavy syll.)

sólid → *solídify*

("long" verb: Type IV)

Integrated into word →
not post-tonic but may
change place of
stress

The disyllabic suffixes
-ity, *-ify* can also be
analysed as post-
tonic endings