Word Stress

What is stress?

• volume
• pitch
• length
• vowel quality

Levels of stress

• strongly stressed (primary)
• lightly stressed (secondary)
• unstressed (weak or no)

e.g. Jàpanése JàpanÉSE /dʒæpə'niːz/  

Compare stress patterns:

French économique organisation 
English economic organization
Where is the stress?

2-SyllABLE WORDS—usually on the first syllable

- German origin:
  MOTHER WATTER WISDOM

- Latin origin—tendency to move stress to 1st syllable:
  MUSIC GRAMMAR REASON

NOTE: Even stronger tendency in British English
BALLET/BALET GARAGE/GA-RAGE

BUT:
contain belief depend why?

PREFIXES
- German origin:
  a-, be-, for-, fore-, mis-, out-, over-, un-, under-, up-, with-

  Verbs—stressed on base/root
  UNTIE OUTRUN OVERDO UNDERSTAND

  Nouns—stressed on prefix
  FORESIGHT OUTCOME OVERDOSE UNDERWEAR

Compare:
There was an OVERLOAD of electricity on the circuit.

Don’t OVERLOAD the circuit!
• Latinate origin
  (ad-, com-, de-, dis-, ex-, en-, in-, ob-, pre-, pre-, pro-, re-, sub-, sur-)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(stress on base)</td>
<td>(also often on base)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comPLAIN</td>
<td>comPLAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exTEND</td>
<td>exTENsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disPLAY</td>
<td>disPLAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proTECT</td>
<td>proTECtion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reTURN</td>
<td>reTURN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part-of-speech alternations:

2-syllable noun/verb pairs (p. 264):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN</th>
<th>VERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJect</td>
<td>proJECT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE Cord</td>
<td>reCORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INcrease</td>
<td>inCREASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONflict</td>
<td>conFLICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJ ect</td>
<td>obJECT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-ate endings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN/ADJ</th>
<th>VERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>graduate</td>
<td>graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>separate</td>
<td>separate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fortunate</td>
<td>educate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUFFIXES

1. no effect on stress placement; stress remains on base/root

-hood NEIGHborhood

-ship reLAtionship

-ful WONderful

-er/or EDucator

-dom KINGdom

-ness apPROpriateness

-able underSTANDable

2. suffix receives the stress

-aire -ee
questionNAIRE graNTEE
(millionaire)

-eer -ese
pioNEER LebaNESE

-esque -ique
picturESQUE uNIQUE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Example Word</th>
<th>Resulting Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-eur</td>
<td>chauffFEUR</td>
<td>chauffFEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oon</td>
<td>carTOON</td>
<td>carTOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ette</td>
<td>casSETTE</td>
<td>casSETTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(cigarette)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-et</td>
<td>bouQUET</td>
<td>bouQUET</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Suffix causes the stress to move to the syllable preceding it

- eous       | COURage      | couRAgeous     |
- graphy     | TELegraph    | teLEGraphy     |
- ial        | SEquence     | seQUENTial     |
- ian        | MAGic        | maGICian       |
- ic         | PERiod       | periODic       |
- ical       | biOLogy      | bioLOGical     |
- ious       | MYStery      | mySTERious     |
- ity        | PUBLIC       | puBLICity      |
- ion        | ORGanize     | organiZAtion   |