

Better Spoken English
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Lecture No. # 22
Stress in English II

Good morning.

Good morning sir.

Can I have your attention please everybody are you all right? Are you comfortable?

Yes sir.

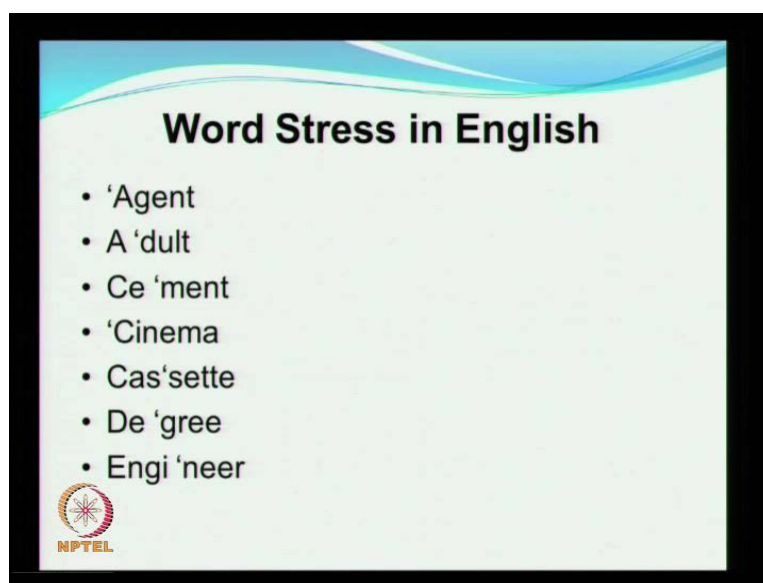
I think you can take out your dictionary and your textbook, and your note book and pen or pencil. We are going to have lot of dictionary looking today, and in the weeks to come and we are been talking about stress on English words. Yesterday we did some exercise we also looked at that Walmart text, and we saw a radio broadcasters text and we marked stresses there. So, the question is many of you may have heard of this word stress on particular words, this is this word is stress itself means variety of things. To psychologist it means one thing to physician it means another, but to us language teacher, it means a certain thing.

And today I am going to talk about what is word stress? How word stress in English is different from word stress in other languages, and what can we do to acquire correct word stress – correct stresses on all words in English. As it is we do a good job already, no we have in a large number words we get correct stresses, but there are some frequently occurring words, particularly those words which are key words for our discipline which we do not sometimes pronounces correctly. I am going to draw your attention particularly those words but, before I talk particular about those words I like tell you something theoratically some theory about what is word stress so that you know you as a scientist can see the pattern can see where we deviate from the pattern and then you can help yourself, am I clear to you? Say yes or no please. Am I clear to you?

Yes sir.

we are going to talk about word stress in English what is word stress in the definition the simplest definition, I was able to think of was this, that in a long word one particular syllable can be more prominent then all the other syllables. Like three boys walking together one of them is taller than another, three boys walking together one of them fatter than other, three boys walking together one of them can be fatter and taller then another. So, prominence is what attracts your attention. How can I syllable be prominent a syllable can be prominent because of either long duration there are three, four, five, syllables imagine in the word, the word like imagine there are three syllable. But, one syllable is more prominent make we see imagine it can be either louder or longer it can be 300 nano seconds or 700 nano seconds compared with only 100 or 120 nano seconds that another sound does. So, it can be louder, it can be longer, it can be also louder is stress syllable can have more decibels then and un stress syllable. I hope you are familiar with these words decibels or nano seconds anyone who does not know these words any one heard it for first time, this is what makes a syllable prominent look at some examples.

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In this words, in the first word which syllable is prominent?

A.

A, so how do u pronounce it?

Agent

Agent, but you know many of us by mistake pronounce it as agent. That is not correct what is it?

Agent

Agent in the next word.

Adult

Adult, what is it?

Adult. You know stressed syllable must come out very clearly that is another reason you know why in a language like English we must speak more slowly than we do in another language, because you know here stress is particularly important in the next word.

Cement

Come again please.

Cement

Yes next.

Cinema

Next

Cassette

That is cassette

Cassette

The first syllable is hardly heard it is not cassette it is just cassette what is that?

Cassette

What is this?

Cassette

The next

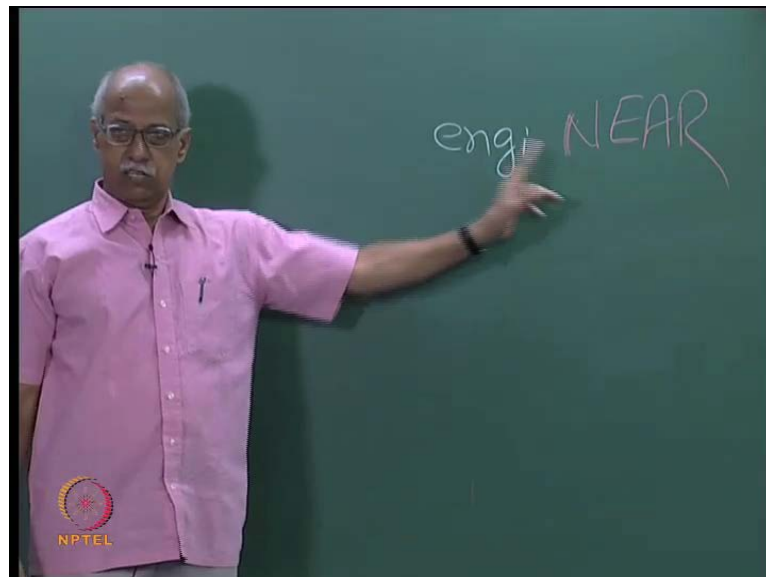
Degree

Next

Engineer

No, it is not engineer it is engineer

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Engineer

Imagine you are pronouncing this what is this engi near what is the word now?

Engi near

Once again

Engineer

You get it right. You guys are going to a engineers and if you do not pronounce the name of you own profession right what impression would you give to others to me is all right I will say these are good boys. You know they have JEE and so accept them whatever they

are, but imagine how what people think of you when they hear you miss pronounce your name of your profession what is this word?

Engineer

Engineer

So, one syllable is more prominent than the others. Why is it more prominent? Because, it is either louder or longer it can be both, why is it prominent? Aparna it is either louder or longer Arun?

Either louder or longer

Irfan

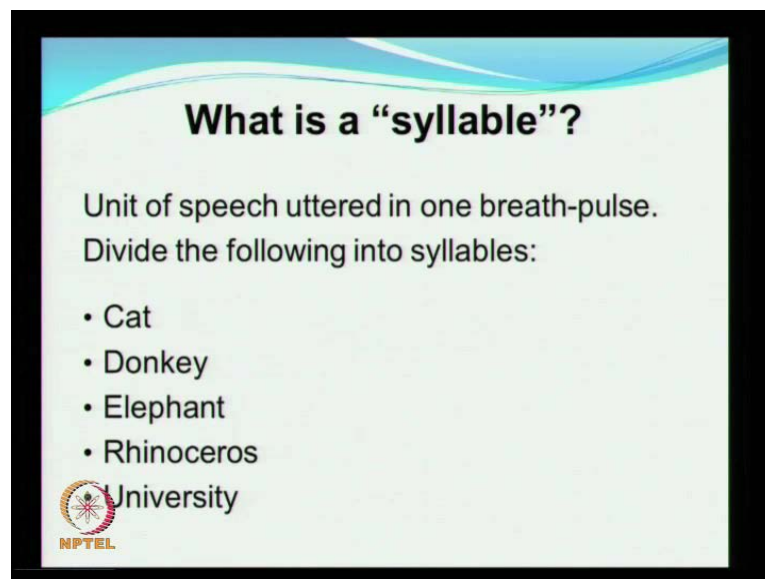
Either louder or longer

Kalpesh

Either louder or longer

Or both. So, it stands out and you have to do the same thing when you speak in English. That is not problem of only one syllable word monosyllabic word like cat or rat no problem absolutely so keep that in mind.


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What is a “syllable”?

Unit of speech uttered in one breath-pulse.
Divide the following into syllables:

- Cat
- Donkey
- Elephant
- Rhinoceros

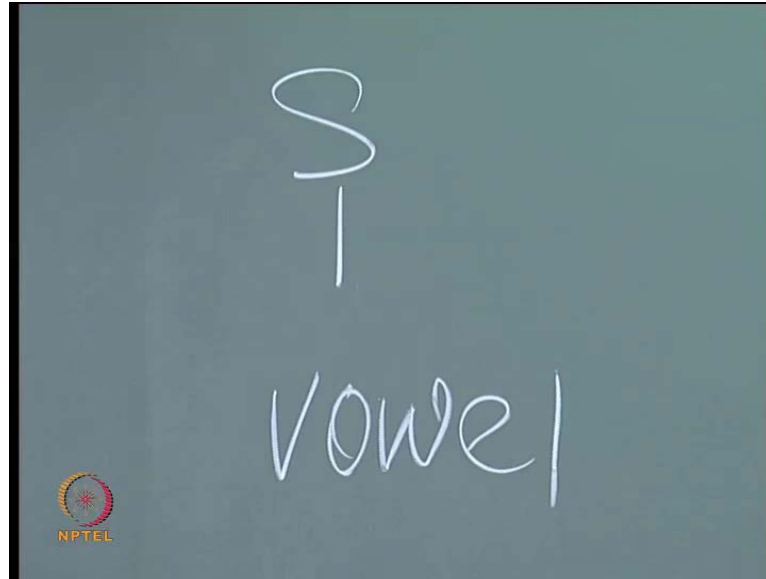
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NPTEL

What is syllable after all what is a syllable just bit of theoretical stuff you see no matter who you are, you may be olympic heavy weight gold medalist, boxing champion or weight lifter. But, all of us can produce only one speech unit in one breath pulse what is breath pulse your lungs, your lungs constantly contract come together and expand that is how you breath. Take the breath do it take a very deep breath, take your very deep breath every one please and now let it go slowly not through your mouth come on through your nose right once again take a very deep breath and let it go again.

Each time you breath your lung expands and each time exhale you let the breath go it contract and only one speech unit can be produced that one breath pulse that is what also sends the blood racing and that is what physician feel when they feel your pulse. So, one speech unit that can be produced in one breath pulse is equal to one syllable. How many sounds can come in one breath pulse, it is also fixed only one vowel. Are you with me? Everybody please only one vowel, each syllable may or may not have other things. But, it certainly has one vowel, only one vowel, the vowel may be long like we see like we saw yesterday succeed or it may be short like we saw yesterday correct.

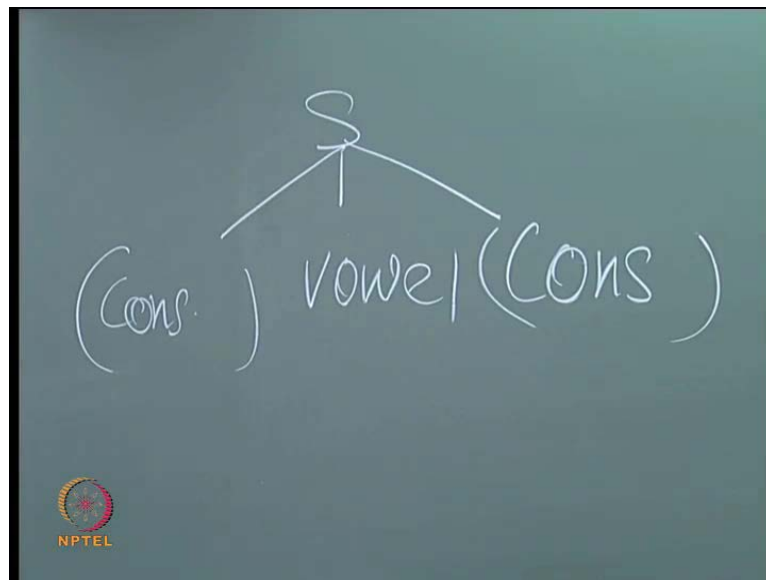
But, only one vowel right yes before or after that vowel it can have one or two, three up to four consonants in English the vowel can be followed via up to four consonants can be preceded by up to three consonants but the number is fixed that speech unit is called a syllable. We in Indian language also organize our writing in syllable we call it akshara if you write Telugu you have three aksharas te, next lu next gu, when you write Malayalam how many do have? ma la ya la m, when you write Hindi how many aksharas do you have two and half you ha and another together is the same thing as syllable structure. See, how wise our sages where they imagine that their great grand children like you would be doing a course in spoken English, so they thought ok lets actually put spoken Hindi, spoken Telugu in terms of syllable. Some writing some system of writing organize their speech in terms of syllable not English. English represents each sound discretely, but when you speak we organize the sounds in syllables.

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What is the structure of a syllable? A syllable must have a vowel show is there is no vowel there is no syllable correct.

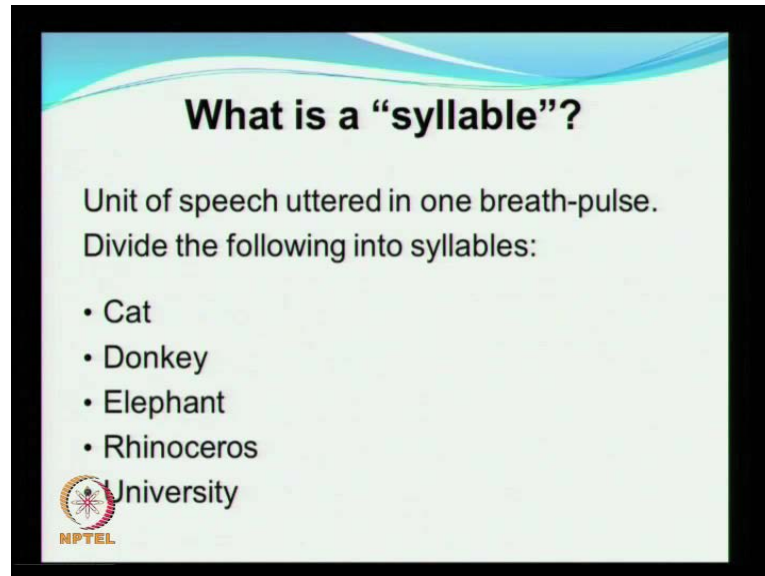
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It may optionally have consonant, It may optionally have consonant. Again there the limit is fixed what is maximum in the English, three before four after the vowel. Similarly, in our language in Telugu, in Hindi, in Sanskrit, in Malayalam, in Bengali, in Marathi in all of our languages, languages of the world it is fixed. How many consonants can come before and how many consonants can come after the vowel, but in all language

of the word one syllable has only one vowel. Any problem? If you think of a counter example kindly tell me, I will write a paper and bring you the next noble prize.

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Can you divide the followings words into syllable. How many syllable are there in the first word what is it?

Cat.

Cat, what is it?

Cat.

The next wrote how many syllable?

Two..

What are those?

Don key

It is not don it is don open your mouth to do like the hood of a crocodile don open it fully and close it quickly don key don key.

Don key

How many syllables?

Two

How many syllables?

Two

This side people are sleeping are you very hungry. Why no sound how many syllable in this word.

Two

What are those?

Don key

Next, so the how many syllable in the next word?

Three

What are those?

E le phant

Next

Four

How many, what are those?

Rhi no ce ros.

Can you pronounce this word together rhinoceros. Look up your dictionary come on quick are 20 seconds whose tells me first, 5 seconds gone, 7, 8 gone 9 gone.

Rhinoceros

Yeah rhinoceros you to 14 you to 16

Rhinoceros

Yes rhinoceros, what is it?

Rhinoceros How many syllable rhi no cero s rhinoceros? What is this word the next word?

University

How many syllable?

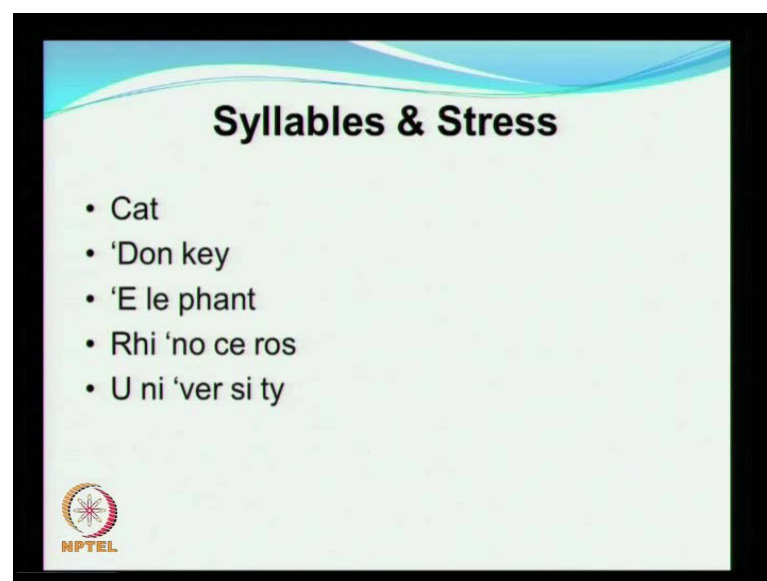
Five

How many syllable in the last word?

Five

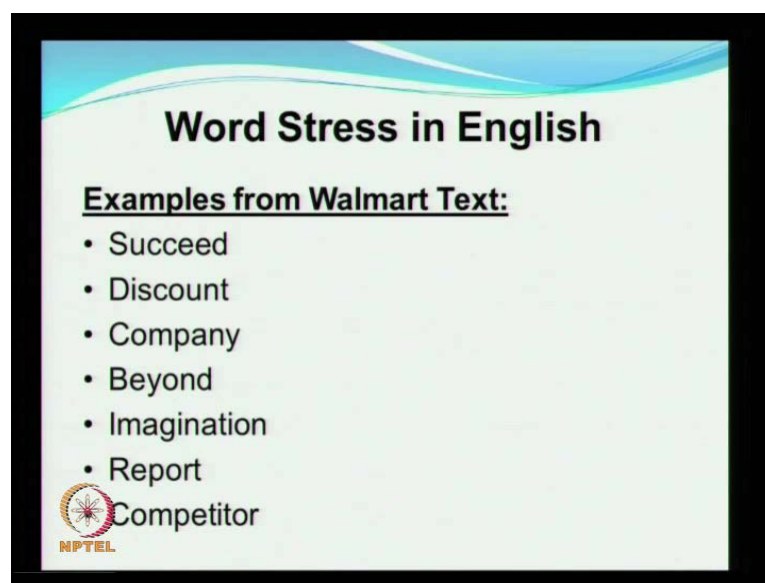
U ni ver si ty. So, u ni ver si ty together what is the word? University, so it is a syllable can you come back to me please a syllable can have only sorry a word can have only one syllable as in cat or it can have five or even more syllables in university. The number of syllables a word has is **sureatically** at least unfixed. It can be any number no matter how many syllable it has. One of these syllable is going to be the most prominent and that is what to mean by words stress, when you pronounce that syllable more prominently then the other syllable s in that word then you are getting the stress right.

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That I am mark that in case you want to check I marked it for you.


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Word Stress in English

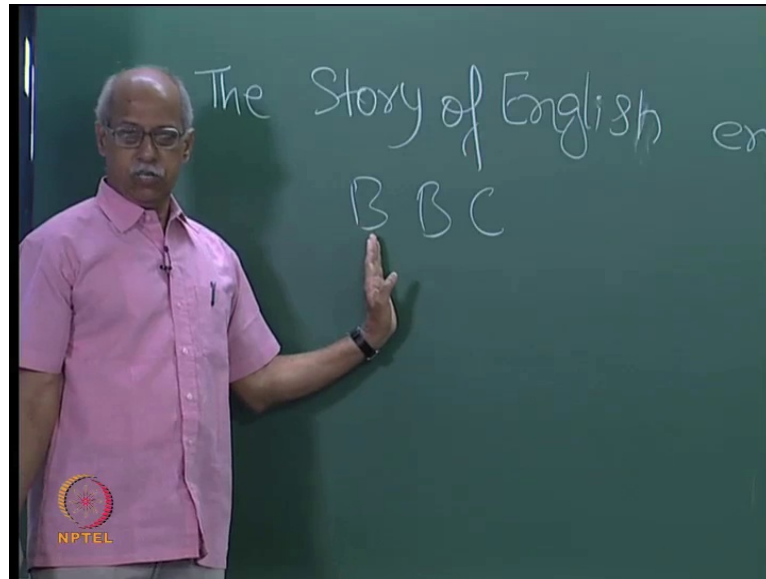
Examples from Walmart Text:

- Succeed
- Discount
- Company
- Beyond
- Imagination
- Report
- Competitor

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Now, come to word stress. So now, you know what is word stress, you know all languages of the world in our languages. Also you know here somebody is called Rajendran, which part of the word is name is mostly stress on 'j', when somebody is called Nagina. What is which part of the word when somebody called Sandya, which part of it depends. But, any other language suppose the Bengali speaker they say Subrata then they are doing the bro. Similarly, in Tamil and Malayalam it is another kind of pattern Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam they usually have different kind of if somebody is called the Neelakandan, then 'nee' is higher than 'kandan'. But, the same Hindi speaker would call him Neelakandan, there are language specific differences. Look at word stress in English because, of the history of the English language, can you take the couple of minutes to talk to you about history of the English language set back relax. I know you are hungry so I would not tell you long story otherwise, you might fall asleep. If you have time some time before June this year, before July this year before you come for the next semester watch interest in documentary it call please write, The story of English.

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This is the what is this?

B B C.

What is this?

B B C.

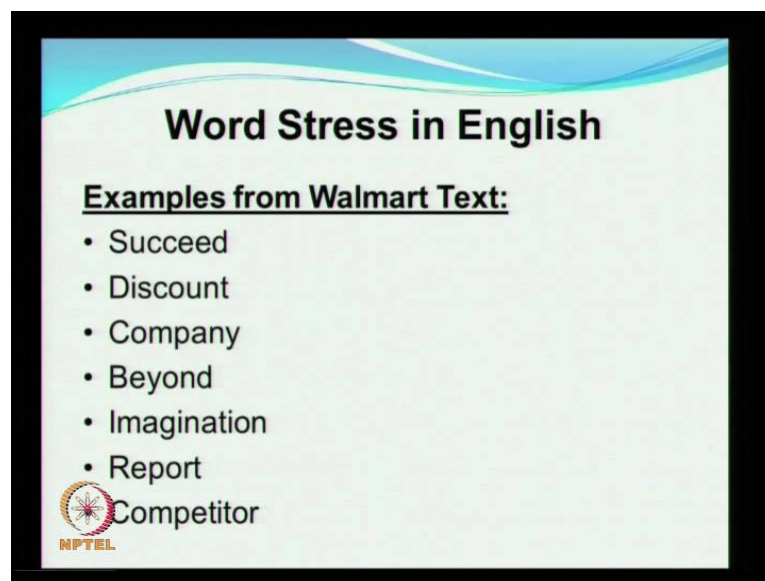
What is the full form?

British Broadcasting Corporation

British Broadcasting Corporation right. Aparna can I have your attention? This is B B C documentary; it is a nine hour documentary you may not have time on one day. But, I believe it is available for free download you can watch it you can download from the net and you can watch it on your computer. It is nine of the documentary it tells you how the language of tiny the language of one part of tiny island not the entire island, language of one part of timing is land in 2000 years became language of the entire world. Today no matter which country you go to you find English in use, go to Afghanistan, go to Tibet, go to Australia or go to Zaire or go to Argentina or go to Libya in a no matter where you go to you find English in use. How did it happen is a lot of the story has many parts the nine parts it happened through military conquest, it happen through commercial enterprise, it happened through trait, it happen through science and technology. Lot of

factors which have the spread English all over the world, but interestingly English for us students are the English language, where ever English went, English also borrowed local words and also kept the pronunciation by in large not exactly by in large. That way, India alone has given close to 10000 words to the English language. 3000 of these words you will find in your advanced learners dictionary, someday if you have time please take a look. So what has happened is English does not have stress on words fixed like many other languages like Tamil or Telugu like Hindi or French, look at these words where is the stress on the first where is stress on first word?

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How do you pronounce it?

Succeed.

Succeed. How do you pronounce the first word?

Succeed.

The next

Discount

Discount, next

Company

Next

Beyond

Next

Imagination

Next

Report

Next

Competitor

Competitor Next check the way you said it. What is first word?

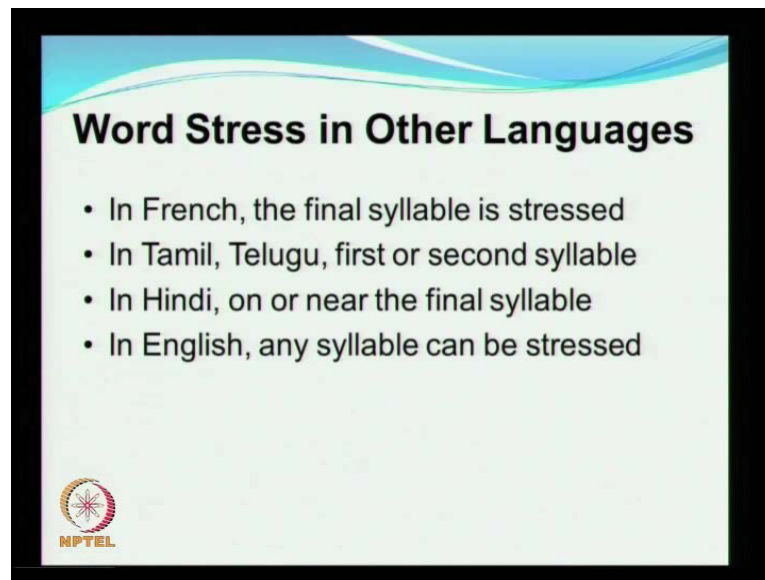
Succeed

Next

Discount

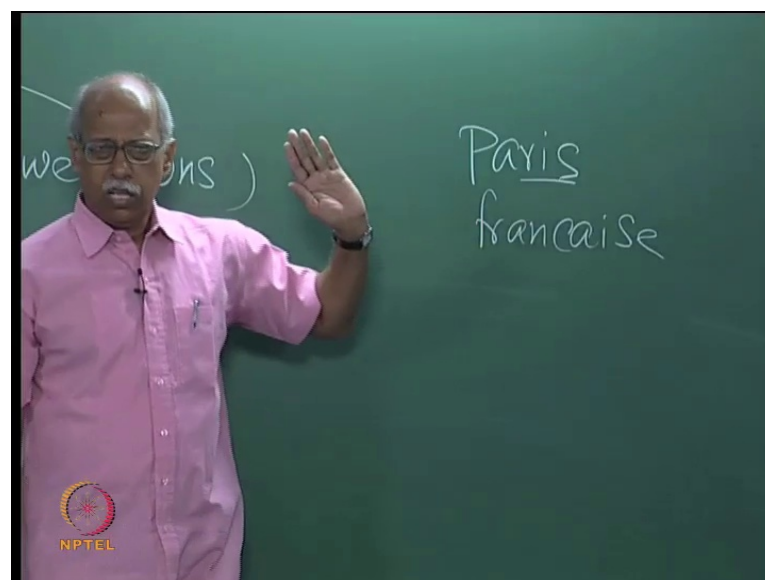
The discount can have two kind of stresses is, it can be discount right or it can be discount there can be a discount on store or store you know discounts some part of its sales when it is verb. So, there is a peculiar thing in English the same word can be pronounced differently as verb and when it is a noun it has two different kind of pronunciation. That is another challenge in English.

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Now, if you compare English word stress with others other languages say for example, for language like French.

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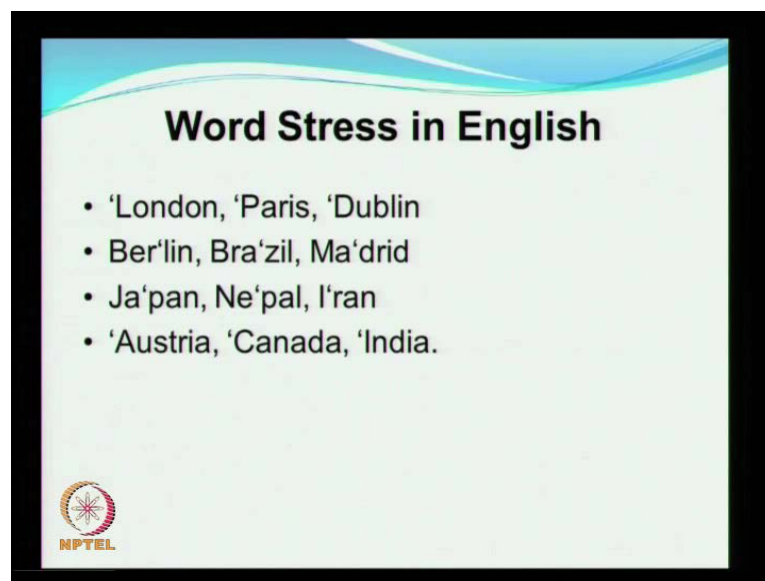


In French, it is always the last syllable so they pronounce Paris. They always you know in English sorry in French they pronounce it as franchise they pronounce it as franchise. It is always the final syllable no exceptions, cassette that is a French word. So, what we say parliament they say parliamento it is always the last syllable. In many other languages look at south Indian language Tamil, Telugu, Kannda, Malayalam it is either always first

or the second syllable, never beyond that, that is at the most prominent stress. In languages like Hindi, Punjabi it is either on near the final syllable, but in English there is no such fixed pattern adding to our troubles. So, all of us following our mother tongue habits either stress the initial syllable or the final syllable or some part of the syllable which we are used to, some part of word which we are used to.

We are often right, but sometimes we are wrong because English does not follow an across the board rule. You know what is the across the board rule, all examples. You know all examples are explained by one rule that is not the case which English. English just as you have to learn the meaning of every word in English you have to learn stress on every word particularly it is a long word that is big challenge for it is non native learner such as you and me look at the example.

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Take the names of the cities, how are they pronounced?

London

Next

Paris

Next

Dublin

But again, there are cities for no reasons or rhyme for no rhyme or reason you know which are pronounced differently. What is the next?

Berlin

Berlin, what is it?

Berlin.

Next

Brazil

Next

Madrid

Madrid, where is the Madrid?

Spain

The capital of Spain, so any English it is pronounces Madrid what is it?

Madrid

Madrid not are Berlin, but Berlin, not are Brazil, but Brazil. Very erratic you know look at names of country. Many countries where last part is emphasised such as Japan.

Next

Nepal

Next

Iran

But, there are names of country where English when emphasizes and stress initial part such as,

Austria

Next

Canada

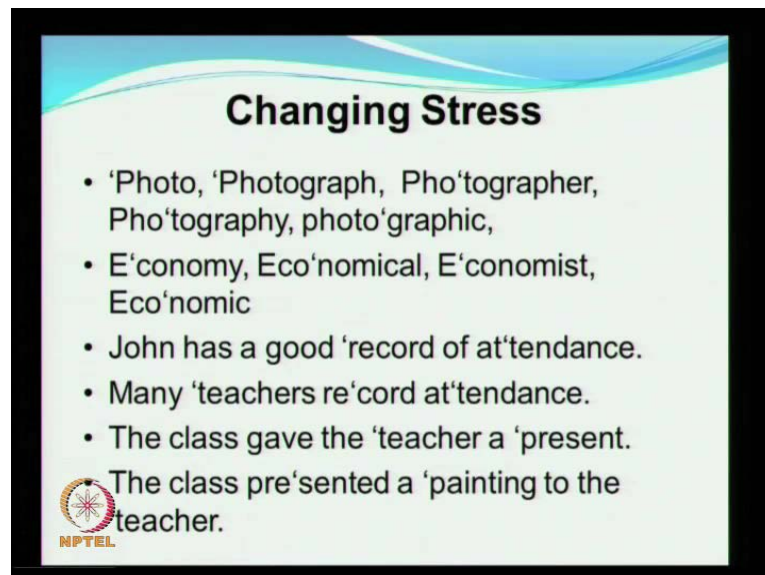
Next

India

You have while speaking English you have to keep all of these erratic pattern also in mind. More challenge number one in English is, challenge number one in English is, any syllable transfer challenge number one English is initially can, challenge number two is has stress change is as the words change the same word it can be photo say it after me.


Photo

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Changing Stress

- 'Photo, 'Photograph, Pho'tographer, Pho'tography, photo'graphic,
- E'conomy, Eco'nomical, E'conomist, Eco'nomie
- John has a good 'record of at'tendance.
- Many 'teachers re'cord at'tendance.
- The class gave the 'teacher a 'present.
- The class pre'sented a 'painting to the teacher.

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Or it can be photograph

Photograph

Again in both case is you have stress on the initial syllable but look at the next word it is photographer, what is it?

Photographer

Next word

Photography

Another word

Photographic

So, three different kinds of stress on basically same related words you have photo, photographer, photography. But, photo graphic can you pronounce these words once again, what is the first word?

Photo

Next

Photograph

Next

Photographer

Photographer

Photographer not photographer what is it?

Photographer

Next

Photography

Next

Photographic

Once again what is the first word?

Photo

It is photo

Photo

Next

Photograph

Next

Photographer

Next

Photography

Next

Photographic

Go slowly look at another example the next is listen to me and pay, look at the screen, but listen to me it is economy.

Economy

Just listen economy next economical, next economist but economic. You see that how it changes, now say it with me. I will say it first you will say it next economy.

Economy

Economical

Economical

Economist

Economist

Economic

Economic

Now, say without me first word

Economy

Next

Economical

Next

Economist

Next

Economic

So, as words are derived, stress changes the second sources of difficulty. The first is initially stress there is no fixed pattern in English the second is, as you change the words with derivation suffix, prefix the stress may change. I am not telling you it certainly changes, but it may change to heard the same word you does the verb has one kind of pronunciation and again later, used as noun has another kind of pronunciation. Just listen do not repeat john has the good record of attendance what part of speech record here is it noun or verb.

Noun

Noun because, a good record, it is a noun, when it is noun it is record, but look at the verb many teachers record attendance, what is it now, verb? When it is verb it is second syllable, which is stressed record. But, when it is a noun it is first syllable which is the stress as noun it record what is it?

Record

But, as verb it is

Record

Record what is it as verb record what is noun?

Record

As verb

Record

As noun

Record

I will say the first sentence and you will say after me slowly relax please, John has good record of attendance.

John has a good record of attendance.

John has the good record of attendance you see before of and record you have little pause. I will say to again john has good record of attendance come on.

John has good record of attendance.

Lovely that is English. I will say next sentence lesson then follow me just listen first. Many teachers record attendance.

Many teachers record attendance

Say the first sentence John has.

John has a good record of attendance.

Next

Many teacher record attendance

It is important, it is extremely important in English that will maintain this difference of stress between noun and verb when that word is used as noun, it has one kind of stress, but when it is used as verb it has another kind of stress and there are lots of words of that kind in English. Can you think of another word? I have given you another sentence there, can you just pronounce-it without me the next sentence the class.

The class gave the teacher a present.

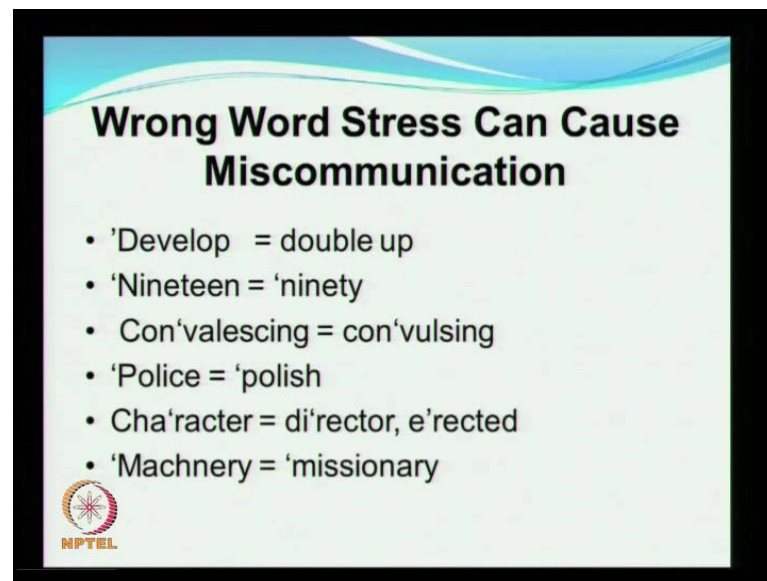
And the next

The class presented a painting to the teacher.

You see as noun, as verb words like record present import, export, produce there are lots of them in English. The basic words very frequently occurring words those are the words which we use on the daily basics, where you make (()). But a little attention thus take a


long time. You do not have to climb the Mount Everest you get it right, you do not have fast just have to pay some attention one day, two day and you get it right. So, that is another problem in English that you know it keeps changing. The stress may change on the same words you can have on the same or similar words you can have different kinds of stress.

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Wrong Word Stress Can Cause Miscommunication

- 'Develop = double up
- 'Nineteen = 'ninety
- Con'valescing = con'vulsing
- 'Police = 'polish
- Cha'racter = di'rector, e'rected
- 'Machnery = 'missionary

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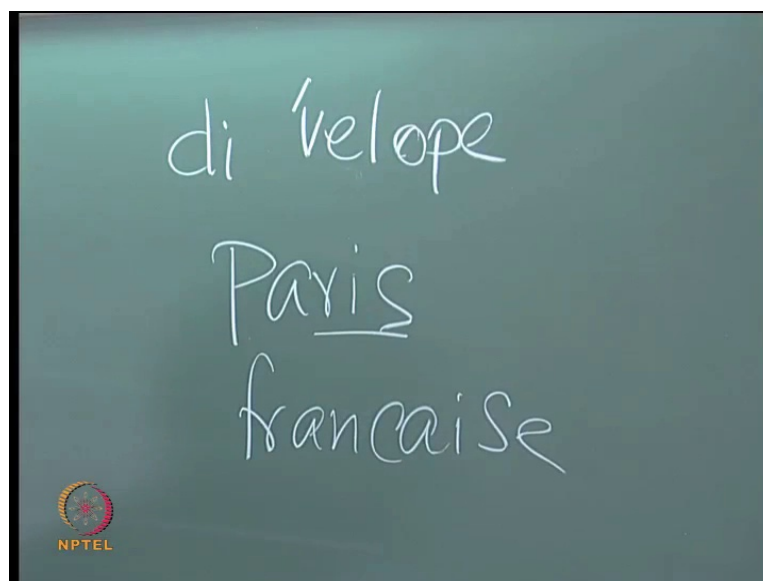
Why is it important for us? Because, researches show that if we do not have right stress. If you do not stress correct part of the word then our listeners, by listeners I mean, those listener who are not use to our pronunciation it has nothing to do with native or non-native. So your friends, your mother, your father, your brother, your family, your relatives understand you any way. But the problem is, when we talk to those who are not used to your pronunciation when you talk to those who are in a hurry, who are impatient, who are not going to giving the time, your parents, your relatives give you, how to talk to them. When you talk to them if do not get stresses right you are misunderstood, the research show that in India we say develop and we are understood as saying double up. How should we pronounce the first word?

Develop.

Develop, what is it?

Develop.

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Pronounce it this way different, the this word what is this?

Develop

Develop which is stress, but if you pronounce it as develop then you are misunderstood, then your listeners think you are talking about double up. Similarly, another word you know, very frequently a large number of us, did I tell you last year, year before last we were involved in a training program in aero traffic control tower in Chennai Airport. And we trained about 450 people in English pronunciation. But, before we began our training program we sat, my colleagues and I sat in the tower and collected their records of their spoken English for about 100 hours. When we analysed them, we found that regularly, routinely, they pronounced 19 as 90. We thought and we concluded there surely was god somewhere. So, that all air crafts landed and took off without any serious accident. But, imagine what disaster, what catastrophe it can cause, if you pronounces nineteen as ninety and they are apart only because of stress in the first word nineteen which part of the word is stressed teen. But, by mistake we pronounce as nineteen it is not nineteen it is nineteen what is this.

Nineteen

And another word is ninety it is long ninety, what is this?

Ninety

You might have noticed all English words lips go from here to here ninety, what is it?

Ninety

Spread your lips what is this?

Ninety

Correct similarly, you know many of us, in India many of us not all, many of us in India and in other countries, where English is not the first or the second language, we pronounce it as convalescing it is not convalescing. What is the correct pronunciation of this word look up your dictionary, common quick I give you exactly 20 seconds I want to see who does it first. Yes, what is it convalescing? What is it convalescing? But, when we pronounce convalescing, what people understand you are talking about they think you are convalescing you see what, how serious miss communication can happen. Similarly, you know our researchers found that when you do not pronounce p o l i c e, how should it be pronounced police. But, many people from Maharashtra and Andhra pronounce as police you remember that famous popular Hindi song from the 60s or 70s [FL], there was a very popular Hindi song, film song in 70's. It is not police of-course it is police in Telugu I am not telling you, when you speak Telugu say police or when you speak Marathi say police, there you should say police. Each language must be spoken according to its own standards. Do not speak Telugu like you are speaking English and do not speak English like you are speaking Telugu. So, how do you do this when you say police, you are misunderstood saying polish. Next, how should the next word be pronounced?

Character

But if you pronounce it as character then you are misunderstood for saying director, erected all kinds of things. Similarly, many people in the south, do not pronounce it properly they pronounce masinary. What is it?

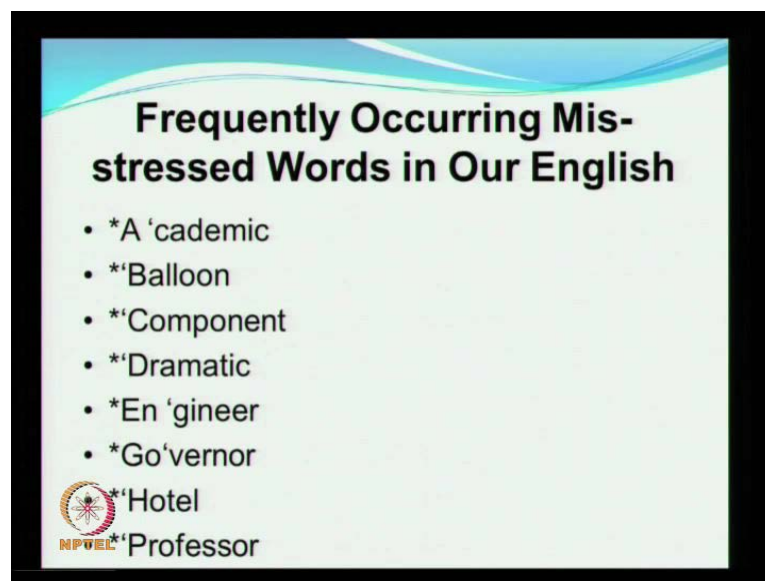
Machinery

What is it?

Machinery

If you pronounce it as masnairy your listener are confused then they say are you talking about machinery? It is therefore, unlike our languages in English it is extremely important that we get our word stresses right. Otherwise we can have misunderstanding because, there is another word with similar stress. When we do not pronounce those correct, when you do not stress, the correct part of the word, then you are giving signal for another word, which is similar but not the same. If you want speak standard English, if you want to speak to people from other country, other discipline in business, in profession then it is important that we must get these stresses right.

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How many words can we learn? Do you get all words wrong? Whatever we speak is that wrong? That is not the case as in everything else we get some words right but some words wrong. So those words that are frequently occurring, and not correctly pronounced by us can be relearnt by us. Can you tell me what is the pronunciation of first word?

Academic

Where ever I put a star it indicates wrong pronunciation, this is wrong pronunciation what is the correct pronunciation of first word.

Academic

Go slow academic what is it?

Academic

The next

Balloon

But, wrongly we say balloon what is it?

Balloon

Next

Component

Yes but, many people, many of us in India pronounce it as component which is not correct, next word.

Dramatic

Next word

Engineer

Next word

Governor

Not governor correct pronunciation is

Governor

In correct pronunciation is

Governor

But, correct pronunciation is governor, stress, you see I have stated it here. So, it is not governor correct pronunciation is governor not governor the correct pronunciation is engineer not engineer next word.

Hotel

The wrong pronunciation is hotel correct pronunciation is.

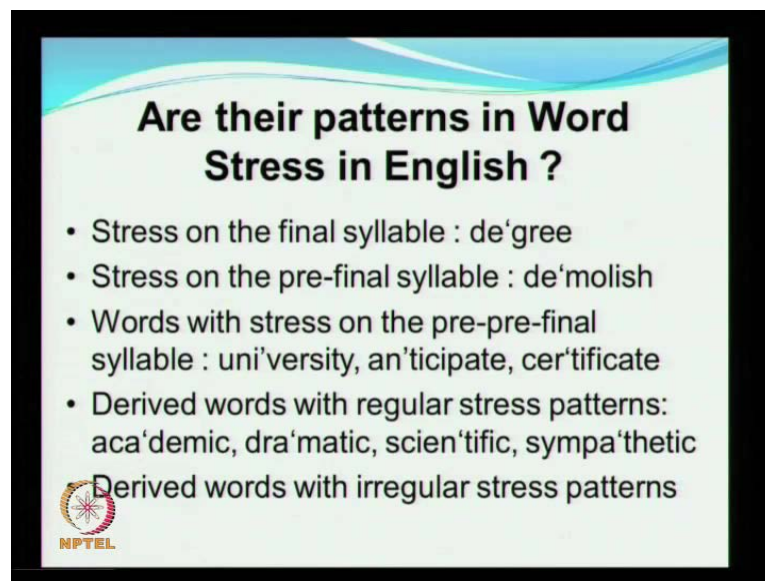
Hotel. Take time

What is the correct pronunciation of final word?

Professor


Professor can you, you know if you like, if you can spend some time may be about 10 minutes not too many. Can you tomorrow bring me a list of words longer than one syllable, that you use between today and tomorrow. Tomorrow we meet at 9 o'clock. Can you bring ten words to the class, such that you frequently use, they are long words more than one syllable and see we are they are stressed. How many people will bring the list to the class tomorrow. Not you Irfan. I want all hands up, these are learning opportunity look at your own language today and tomorrow and bring me all the long words and also check their pronunciation.

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Are their patterns in Word Stress in English ?

- Stress on the final syllable : de'gree
- Stress on the pre-final syllable : de'molish
- Words with stress on the pre-pre-final syllable : uni'versity, an'ticipate, cer'tificate
- Derived words with regular stress patterns: aca'demic, dra'matic, scien'tific, sympa'thetic
- Derived words with irregular stress patterns

 NPTEL

Finally, are you tired? Are you ok? Are we together I am going to finish fast. I know you have marvelous lunch waiting for you and you would like to run for it. So, the question now is English stress all (()) there is no pattern, do you have to learn all words individually. That is fortunately not the case, there are number words following a certain pattern which are stress only on the final syllables. Can you give me some example?

Degree

Can you give me another final syllable? Can you give me another example where stress is also nineteen? Can you give me another example where stress is on the final syllable balloon? Can you give me another example, today, hotel. Can you give me yet another example police, succeed, engineer. Most words ending in e e r e r e you know s e v e r e how do you pronounce it? It is not severe it is severe, s i n c e r e what is that?

Sincere

Sincere it not sincere it is sincere. There are pattern there are some other words, where you know you have stress on the pre final syllable such as de-molish. Can you give me another word.

Abolish.

Another word another word

Abortion

Admonish,, Component because you are speak to him right unless you want him to speak. So, there are word where we have stress on the second syllable from the end, there are words where we have stress on third syllable from the end. Please look at the words like in anticipate, certificate can you give me another word.

Participate

Another word

Adversity

Another word laugh another word vocalized noise there are you know those words then there are lots of words, you know we do some practice with those words. Then there are words which follow certain suffix if those words end in suffix, there are certain kinds of words of kind pronunciation. So, for example, all word ending in I C having this kind of stress for pre final so you have dramatic what is it.

Dramatic

Scientific

Sympathetic

Similarly, you know there are other kind of stress pattern etc. What we will do is I want to bring the dictionary and your book every day to class for next three weeks and we do some practice with it here. But, idea is practice the class room alone would not be enough, but you know how to about practice. If you really are determined and decided then in two weeks you can acquire, you can change your accent in pronunciation of English all words where you go wrong. Because once you do words of one pattern right other word in that pattern would themselves change your mind is a very powerful machine. All you have to do is to give it a chance. Any question please. Thank you have a good day.