

## Stress and Intonation in English

<http://usefulenglish.ru/phonetics/practice-intonation-rhythm>

Rules for Stress <https://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/learn-these-4-word-stress-rules-improve-your-pronunciation>

Stress and Intonation in English.

Stress tells us which words are important to listen to

Words in sentences are stressed or unstressed.

These are the words which generally take stress

- Nouns e.g. kitchen, Peter
- (most) principal verbs e.g. visit, construct
- Adjectives e.g. beautiful, interesting
- [Adverbs](#) e.g. often, carefully

These are the words which do not take stress ( unless it is important to do so)

- Determiners e.g. the, a, some, a few
- Auxiliary verbs e.g. don't, am, can, were
- Prepositions e.g. before, next to, opposite
- [Conjunctions](#) e.g. but, while, as
- Pronouns e.g. they, she, us

Example.-Mark the stress, then practice the sentence.

My name is Ellen, I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, in the Midwest. Until seventh grade, I attended Catholic schools, which was a real experience in the fifties and sixties.

Then I transferred to public schools, which was an even more intense experience.

In those days Catholic schools were very hostile to studying science and mathematics; so I was terrible at math and was not at all interested in science. Since Catholic schools emphasized History ( of the Church) I excelled in things like Literature and History.

After high school, I went to the University of Iowa. Although they do have a college of engineering, the University is most known for its art, music and literature departments. In addition, they had something called the Writer's Workshop, where potential writers come for two years and get an MFA in writing.

I studied European History. Only problem was what to do after graduation. I ended up teaching English in Yorkshire England and then went into theatre.

I don't regret it...but when my daughter who is applying to engineering school asked me if I was disappointed that neither of her children went into the Humanities, I burst out laughing and said

“Of course not”

### **Stressed Syllables**

80% of words in English have stress on the first syllable.

Syllable stress means the vowel is fully pronounced and the voice goes up in pitch. In an unstressed syllable the vowel is reduced ( usually to a schwa /ə/ or /ɪ/ )

Multi-syllable words have variable stress. Watch out for words with prefixes like de, con, com,

My **name** is **Ellen**, I **grew** up in the **suburbs** of **Chicago**, in the **Midwest**. Until **seventh** grade, I **attended** **Catholic** schools, which was a **real** experience in the **fifties** and **sixties**. Then I **transferred** to **public** schools, which was an even more **intense** experience.

Word stress hints. Never stress: past tense ending. “ed” Park-parked. Or “ing” go, going

Major and minor stress on 3 or 4 letter words.

**Ci** -vi-li-**za**-tion-

Clan-**des**-tine-

**con**-de-**scen**-tion      fa **ci**l it **ta** tion      **fer** men **ta** tion

con-**fed**-er-acy

con-**fed**-er-a-tion

fac **sim** i le