

The Stress and Melody of Names of People and Places

You can predict where the heaviest stress and pitch move belong on the names of people and places. The rule for placing the stress (marked with ! below) is simple.

1. Names of People

The last word of the name carries the heaviest stress and pitch move.

Mr. B!aker

Ralph B!aker

Mr. Ralph B!aker

Dr. Ok!ada

Yasu Ok!ada

Dr. Yasu Ok!ada

Ms. A!mes

Betty S!ue

Ms. Betty Sue A!mes

Professor Sh!im

Alex Sh!im

Professor Alex Sh!im

General L!ee

Robert B. L!ee

General Robert B. L!ee

I'm _____.

2. Names of Places

Most place names follow the same pattern as personal names. The last word of the name carries the heaviest stress and the pitch move.

Cities

New York C!ity

San Francisco!

Los A!ngeles

Ft. L!auderdale

Cape C!od

City + State

Chicago, Illino!is

Champaign, Illino!is

Urbana, Illino!is

Miami, Fl!orida

Austin, T!exas

City + Country

London, Eng!and

Tokyo, J!apan

Seoul, Kore!a

Bombay, Ind!ia

Taipei, Taiw!an

I'm from _____.

A. Hello. I'm _____.

B. I'm glad to meet you.

I'm _____.

Where are you fr!om?

A. I'm from _____.

Where are you fr!om?

B. I'm from _____.