

Summary of Rules before Quiz 4

Rules to predict sounds are valuable during covert rehearsal, the private time when you speak aloud, check your speech, change it to match the rules, and practice the repairs.

Rules fall into the following categories. (A) Primary stress, (B) Construction stress, (C) Word stress, and (D) Vowel prediction patterns. Since consonant prediction patterns were not emphasized, they are not covered here. Rules in categories A-D are summarized below.

A. Primary Stress

Primary stress is used in speech for two main purposes: (1) To draw the listener's attention to contrasts in the message, and (2) to draw the listener's attention to new information in the message.

1. Contrasts

- a. Contrasts are of specific kinds: (1) choice questions, (2) either..or statements, (3) [x, not y] or [not x, but y], (4) contradictions, (5) parallel phrases, and (6) noun (comparative) *than* noun.
- b. Only the items contrasted carry primary stress, whether they are new or old, content word or function word, a full word or part of a word. For comparisons, if the two nouns compared are old, the adjective often carries the primary stress.
- c. You must look ahead in a text to discover a contrast. Sometimes you will find two contrasts in a single message unit.
- d. Non-final phrases have a rise-to-mid intonation; final phrases have a low-range intonation.

E.g. [Two students talking about leaving campus for break]

- (1) A. Are you going by train or by bus this time?
- (6) B. I'm taking the train. It's quicker than the bus, since busses have to stop so frequently. And I think trains travel faster than busses, too.
- (3, 2) A. I like busses, though. It's not the speed that's important to me, but the conveniences I get. The stops let you get out and stretch your legs, buy a paper, get a bite to eat, or use the restroom.
- (5, 4, 6) B. I don't like busses | because speed is important. And train stations are usually nicer than bus terminals. They're often cleaner, safer, and more spacious.
- (5) A. So for long trips, it depends on what you want. Trains offer the greater speed, while busses offer the greater convenience.

2. New Information

- a. Primary stress announces new information to the listener.
- b. We discover new information by looking back.
- c. By convention, primary stress goes on the last content word of new information, or if there is no content word, it goes on the last function word.
- d. Non-final phrases have a rise-to-mid intonation.
- e. Special cases include answers to choice questions and lists and series.

In the dialog above, notice primary stress on last content words in new information.

E.g. I like busses. [The word *busses* has been mentioned beforehand.]

The answer to a choice question receives the primary stress even if it is old.

- E.g. A. Are you going by train ↗ or bus this time?
B. I'm taking the train.

Finally, in cases of a list or series, a rise-to-mid intonation is used for each member of the list or series but a falling intonation for the last member.

E.g. They're generally cleaner, ↗ safer, ↗ and more spacious.↘

B. Construction Stress

Constructions are multiword units that behave like one part-of-speech, such as a noun, adjective, or verb. We have looked at (1) compound nouns and (2) compound numbers.

1. Compound Nouns

- a. With Compound Stress: " ` (heavy - light)

Most noun+noun compounds, verb-*ing* + noun, two nouns written together or hyphenated, ___ + Street, ___ + Building, Center, House, Home; non-name/non-adjective + structure word.

- b. With Phrasal Stress: ` " (light - heavy)

Names of people, places, universities and colleges, publications, abbreviations, noun₂ made of noun₁, time + noun, place + noun, chemical names, proper name/adjective + structure word.

E.g. [Two friends talking]

- A. I'm starting to get a b^áckache when I stand for long periods. Like when I'm at the kitchen s^ínk doing the dishes after the evening m^éal.
- B. First, you should go to the H^ealth Center on Lincoln ^Ávenue south of Allen R^ésidence Hall. You may need an MR^í. Then try using a rubber m^át at home.
- A. The next thing you'll tell me is to borrow a wh^eelchair, buy a w^álking cane, drop out of the University of Illin^óis, and start disability payments!

C. Word Stress

You have studied two word-stress rules – (1) the Key Stress Rule and (2) the V/VC Stress Rule. Each applies uniquely to different sets of words. You can distinguish these words sets by ending and/or part of speech or a special spelling.

1. Key Stress Rule

- a. KSR applies to words having iV-endings that are followed by nothing, by a basic ending, or by a non-basic ending. The iV-ending must have a syllable to the left. E.g. **-ion, -ial, -ious, -ient, -io, -ium; -ions, -ially; -ional, -ionary, -iatory, -ianism**
- b. The key syllable is immediately to the left of the right-most iV-ending.
- c. The major stress falls on the key syllable only.

2. V/VC Stress Rule

- a. VSR applies to words having **ic** Keys, adjectives ending in **-al** and **-ous**, and nouns and adjectives ending in **-ent, -ant, -ence, -ance, -ency, -ancy**. If a word ends in **ment, ent** is a VSR ending only if it is **iment** or **ament**.
- b. The key syllable is immediately left of the ending, even if it looks like an iV-spelling. The only exception is **-ional**, which is stressed by the KSR.
- c. If the key is spelled with V or VC, the major stress falls on the left syllable; otherwise, the stress falls on the key.

E.g. [A hospital administrator discussing a problem]

- A. I'm in a s^érious p^redⁱcament: A p^átient feigned psychiátric inc^ómpetence then escaped from the State m^éntal institútion, wearing a physⁱcian's coat and carrying a m^édical bag. On his way out, he released a dozen other p^átients in r^ésidence who have also gone missing.
- B. This situátion has few p^recedents. As a c^ónsequence, we may need an interm^ediary to neg^ótiate a settlement of the n^úmerous l^egal issues and the v^árious conflicting claims made in the suit against the ágency.

D. Vowel Prediction Patterns

Vowel prediction rules (vowel quality patterns) are two sorts – (1) specific VQPs that apply to specific spellings or make unusual predictions, and (2) general VQPs that apply generally, wherever a spelling-stress combination appears. Specific patterns take precedence over general patterns. Some of the specific patterns were mentioned only briefly.

1. Specific VQPs

álC# = /ɑ ~ ɔ/

áw = /ɑ ~ ɔ/

áu = /ɑ ~ ɔ/

salt

saw

sáuna

éw = /uw/

éu = /uw/

few

feud

ÿ = /iy/

ĩ = /iy/

ármÿ

ármĭes

ǎ = reduced

agéndǎ

íC+K = shape

ýC+K = shape

ídíot

Sýrians

úC- = name

númerous

2. General VQPs

́VC# = shape

́VCC = shape

́VC- = shape

wet

west

ríveting

ˇVC# = reduced

ˇVCC = reduced

cómĕt

éarnĕst

́V = name

́V = name

éást

archáic

ˇV = name

ˇVC = reduced

ˇV = name

mónĕÿ

cáptáin

mémĕ

́VC+E = name

́VC+K = name

fame

fámous

fácial

ˇVC+E = reduced

rívĕting

ínfámous