

Summary of Rules before Quiz 5

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.

Since the last quiz, the rules introduced fall into the following categories. (A) Primary stress and intonation, (B) Construction stress, (C) Word stress. There have been no new vowel prediction patterns. Rules in categories A-C are summarized below.

A. Primary Stress and Intonation

Primary stress is has been discussed in questions and answers to questions: (1) Yes/No questions, (2) Information questions. In each case, the choice of intonation has been specified.

1. Yes/No Questions and Answers

- a. In questions, primary stress goes on the last content word or construction in the string of new information. If there is no new content word or construction, primary stress goes on the last, new-information function word.
- b. In questions, the intonation may end either in the high range or the low range.
- c. In answers, the new information is in the indication of positive or negative if possible. Primary stress on elliptical verbs (with either old or missing main verb) is on the first modal or auxiliary or on the negative word or contraction. Otherwise, stress the last content word or construction, or if none, the last function word in the new information.
- d. In answers, the intonation ends in the low range.

E.g. [An undergraduate talking with a graduate student friend]

- A. Do you have a full schedule after supper?
- B. Not too full. I just have to return some books to the library. Why do you ask?
- A. I was hoping we could get together. I could use some help with probability. Are you up to it?
- B. Of course. What are you working on?
- A. Standard deviation. Is that hard?
- B. It might be. Have you had the basics?
- A. I expect I have. Will that make a difference?
- B. It probably will. We'll have to see. Where do you want to meet?
- A. In the north lounge. Is that OK?
- B. That's fine. How about we meet around 8?
- A. Sounds good. Thanks.

2. Information Questions and Answers

- a. In questions (beginning with words like *who*, *what*, *how*, *when*, *why*), primary stress goes on the last content word or construction in the new information or, absent a content word or construction, on the last new information function word.
- b. In questions, the intonation invariably ends in the low range.
- c. In answers, the primary stress is on the answer to the question and may involve stressing the last of the new information. A low-range intonation is used.

In the dialog above, notice primary stress on last content words in new information and a low range intonation.

E.g. Why do you ask? ↘ What are you working on? ↘ Where do you want to meet? ↘

The answer to an information question receives the primary stress.

E.g. A. Where do you want to meet? ↘
B. In the north lounge. ↘

B. Construction Stress

Constructions are multiword units that behave like one part-of-speech, such as a noun, adjective, or verb. Since the last quiz, we have looked at (1) compound numbers and (2) phrasal verbs.

1. Compound Numbers

- a. Numbers of two (or more) parts, including *-teen* numbers, are compound numbers.
- b. With no noun following, all compound numbers follow the phrasal stress pattern.
- c. With a noun following, the primary stress goes on the new noun. But the compound number carries compound stress, namely, heavier stress on the first part.
- d. If an old noun follows, phrasal stress is used as if no noun were present.
- e. Compound numbers are good candidates for contrastive stress.

E.g. [A teacher with her math class]

- A. Please turn to page seventy-three, and let's discuss word problems sixteen, twenty-three, and thirty-one. What's your answer to the first of these?
- B. I got one thousand forty-two. There were one-thousand traffic tickets given out in June, and ninety-two tickets and four-hundred citations in July.
- A. I thought there were four thousand citations in July.

2. Phrasal Verbs

- a. Phrasal verbs have a verb head, and separate particles of two types stressable and unstressable. By learning the small, unstressable set, it is possible predict correctly the stress of all phrasal verbs. The unstressable particles are: *about, against, at, for, from, of, on, to, with*.
- b. Type I phrasal verb - with a verb head and an unstressable particle - will always carry heavy stress on the verb head, including primary stress when the phrasal verb is the last construction of new information.
- c. Type II and Type III phrasal verbs - with a verb head and a stressable particle next - will carry stress differently depending whether the phrasal verbs are the last constructions of new information or some other content word is the last new information.
 - i. If the phrasal verb is the last new information, primary stress will be on the particle.
 - ii. If the phrasal verb is not the last new information, the primary stress will be elsewhere, and the verb head and stressable particle will carry equal stress.
 - iii. The second particle of Type III phrasal verbs is lightly stressed or unstressed in all cases.

E.g. [Driver talking with person on the sidewalk]

- A. Excuse me. Could you help me with directions? I'm trying to get out to City Park. I've heard good things about it.
- B. No problem. It's easy to drive to. You'll have to go back to Nichols Boulevard. Turn left and go up six blocks. City Park is spread out on your right. That's what you're looking for.
- A. Thanks. Can I go around this block | to get back to Nichols?
- B. Sure. Just be careful to move into the left lane quickly. Traffic sometimes builds up there | and it's hard to cross over.
- A. Great! Thanks a lot.

C. Word Stress

Since the last quiz, you have studied the third word stress rule – the Left Stress Rule. Be careful to identify the right clues to rule use; the clues are a combination of ending and part of speech. Vowel patterns used elsewhere apply to LSR words.

1. Left Stress Rule

- a. LSR applies to words having Left Rule endings on long nouns and long verbs and related forms. The Left Rule endings are **-y, -i, -ate, -acy**
- b. The key syllable is immediately to the left of the Left Rule ending.
- c. The major stress falls on the left syllable only.
- d. Carefully distinguish the KSR **-iate** and **-iacy** endings from the LSR endings.

2. LSR Vowel Quality Patterns

- a. Only old patterns apply to LSR words.
- b. However, in the case of **-ate** nouns and adjectives, the ending is reduced, not full; it fits the VC+E = reduced pattern.

E.g. [Stamp Collecting]

*Stamp collecting – philately – is a hobby that gratifies many people for many reasons. Some are fascinated by novelties and rarities, such as *printing errors, imperforate and geminate pairs. While a mutilated stamp is worthless, a stamp containing a *printing error may be priceless. Imperforate stamps are often valued more than the common perforated varieties. Another curiosity is the geminate pair in which one stamp in the pair has been inverted. Other collectors are captivated by the intricacies and technical side of philately. They spend time classifying stamps by color, size, type of paper, and identifying *watermarks, *printing processes, *perforation sizes, and then they estimate their value. Values, of course, are modified from year to year. Most collectors, however, gravitate to the hobby for fun and education. *Stamp clubs have been established in many localities to facilitate collecting and to provide opportunities to edify collectors. Members bring their own duplicates and trade among themselves. Time is devoted to learning about stamps, clarifying aspects of collecting, and investigating topics commemorated on the stamps. In this way, collectors cultivate diversified interests and enrich their understanding of their hobby.