

## Summary of Word Stress Rules

Rule	Applies To	Analysis	Stress Commands
Key Stress Rule (KSR)	Words with Key Rule Endings: <i>-ia, -io, -iu, -ienC</i> followed by other letters, neutral, basic, or non-basic endings: <i>-able, -al, -alism, -alist, -alism, -ary, -ate, -er, -ive, -ism, -ist, -ize, -ory, -y</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine if you have a Key Rule Ending</li> <li>2. Find the Key</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stress the Key</li> </ol>
V/VC Stress Rule (VSR)	Adjectives ending in <i>-al, -ous</i> Adjectives and nouns ending in <i>ic</i> Key Adjectives and nouns ending in: <i>-ant, -ent, -ance, -ence, -ancy, -ency</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine if you have a V/VC Rule Ending</li> <li>2. Find the Key</li> <li>3. Find the Left</li> <li>4. Analyze the Key</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the Key is spelled V or VC, stress the Left</li> <li>2. Otherwise, stress the Key</li> </ol>
Left Stress Rule (LSR)	Long nouns ending in <i>-i</i> or <i>-y</i> Long verbs and related forms in <i>fi</i> or <i>fy</i> Long words ending in <i>-ate, -ated, -ator, -ating, -acy, -acies</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine if you have a Left Rule Ending</li> <li>2. Find the Key</li> <li>3. Find the Left</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stress the Left</li> </ol>
Prefix Stress Rule (PSR)	Nouns and adjectives ending in <i>-ary, -ery, -ory, -ive</i> Words ending in <i>-ative, -atory, -ature</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine if you have a Prefix Rule Ending</li> <li>2. Find the Key</li> <li>3. Find the Left</li> <li>4. Analyze the Left</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the Left contains a prefix part, stress the Key</li> <li>2. Otherwise, stress the Left</li> </ol>

### NOTES:

1. The summaries in this chart are simplifications of the rules. Refer to the textbook for details, notes, examples, variations, and exceptions. A quick reference to examples is in the text on p. 93.
2. All rules begin with the Key Syllable. Review the Key Search Strategy in lesson W-4: Key Syllables and Left Syllables, p. 106ff in the text.
3. Always let the *largest* ending guide your rule choice, e.g. take *-ary* not *-y*, *ial* not *-al*, *-ional* not *-al*, *-atory* not *-ory*, *-iatory* not *-atory*, etc.