

# Pronunciation Keys and Syllable Stress

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

A **pronunciation key** shows you how to SAY a word. The mark ■ (or capital letters in respellings like *ACK-shun*) shows the **stressed syllable** — the one you say a little louder and longer. Some words change MEANING based on where the stress falls (*REC-ord* = the noun, *re-CORD* = the verb).

## PRACTICE

Use the pronunciation key or stress mark to choose the **BEST** answer for each item.

- Which word matches the respelling /■f■n.d■.m■n.t■/ — said FUN-duh-MEN-tuhl?
  - fundament
  - function
  - fundamental
  - foundation
- Which syllable is STRESSED in the word **computer** /k■m■pju■.t■r/?
  - pu
  - com
  - ter
  - no syllable is stressed
- The word **record** can be said two ways. Which is correct?
  - the noun is /r■k■rd/ and the verb is /r■k.■rd/
  - the noun is /r■k.■rd/ and the verb is /r■k■rd/
  - the noun and verb sound exactly the same
  - both forms stress the second syllable
- Which respelling matches the word **photograph**?
  - /fo■t■.r■.fi/
  - /fo■t■.r■.f■r/
  - /f■r.t■.ræf/
  - /fo■.t■.ræf/



5. Which word has the SAME stress pattern as **banana** /bʌnænə/ (stress on the middle syllable)?
- computer
  - elephant
  - yesterday
  - happiness
6. Read this dictionary respelling: **ee-MER-jen-see**. Which word does it spell?
- energy
  - elementary
  - emergency
  - enormous
7. Which respelling shows the STRESS on the SECOND syllable?
- /tɪl.skoʊp/
  - /dʒɑːn/
  - /lɪ.tɪmɪt/
  - /r.dɪn.rɪ/
8. How many syllables does the word /n.bɪlɪ.vɪbəl/ have?
- three
  - four
  - six
  - five
9. The word **present** can be a noun (a gift) or a verb (to give). The noun stresses the first syllable, the verb stresses the second. Which is the verb pronunciation?
- /prɪzənt/
  - /prɪz.ənt/
  - /prɪzənt/
  - /prɪs.ənt/
10. In the respelling **el-uh-FAN-tin**, which syllable is STRESSED?
- el
  - FAN
  - uh
  - tin



## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

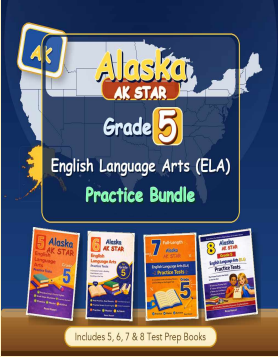
- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9  A  B  C  D
- 10  A  B  C  D

### Explanations

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1. C  | <b>C</b> — <i>fundamental</i> has four syllables (fun-da-men-tal) with the strongest stress on <i>MEN</i> . A is shorter (3 syllables); B has only 2 syllables (FUN-shun); D has 3 syllables (foun-DAY-shun).  |
| 2. A  | <b>A</b> — the mark ■ in /k■m■pju■t■r/ comes RIGHT BEFORE the second syllable ( <i>pu</i> ), so that's the stressed syllable: com- <b>PU</b> -ter. B and C are unstressed; D is wrong (every multi-syllable word has at least one stressed syllable).                  |
| 3. B  | <b>B</b> — the noun ( <i>I bought a record</i> ) stresses the FIRST syllable (REC-ord); the verb ( <i>I will record the song</i> ) stresses the SECOND syllable (re-CORD). A reverses them. C and D are wrong — the stress shift is exactly what makes them different. |
| 4. D  | <b>D</b> — <i>photograph</i> has 3 syllables (PHO-to-graph) with the stress on PHO. A is <i>photography</i> (4 syllables, stress on TOG); B is <i>photographer</i> (4 syllables, stress on TOG); C shows wrong vowel sound for <i>pho</i> -.                           |
| 5. A  | <b>A</b> — <i>computer</i> = com- <b>PU</b> -ter (stress on the middle syllable), the same pattern as ba- <b>NAN</b> -a. B (EL-e-phant), C (YES-ter-day), and D ( <b>HAP</b> -pi-ness) all stress the FIRST syllable.  |
| 6. C  | <b>C</b> — <i>emergency</i> has 4 syllables (e-MER-gen-cy) with stress on MER. A has 3 syllables (EN-er-jee); B has 5 syllables; D has 3 syllables (e-NOR-mus).  |
| 7. B  | <b>B</b> — the mark ■ in /d■z■n/ comes right before the SECOND syllable ( <i>za■n</i> ): de- <b>SIGN</b> . A, C, and D all show the stress mark before the FIRST syllable.   |
| 8. D  | <b>D</b> — count the dots: un-bi-LIE-va-bul = 5 syllables. The dots between sounds in a respelling show the syllable breaks.   |
| 9. A  | <b>A</b> — the verb <i>present</i> stresses the second syllable: pre- <b>ZENT</b> , written /pr■z■nt/. B is the noun ( <b>PREZ</b> -ent). C uses an unusual vowel; D misspells the consonant.  |
| 10. B | <b>B</b> — capital letters in a respelling usually mark the STRESSED syllable. <i>el-uh-FAN-tin</i> stresses <b>FAN</b> : el-uh- <b>FAN</b> -tin (a respelling of <i>elephantine</i> ).  |



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