

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/
 - /lɪtmɪt/
 - /r.dɪnəri/
8. How many syllables does the word /n.bɪlɪv.bəl/ 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?
- /prɛznt/
 - /prɪznt/
 - /prɛznt/
 - /prɪsnt/
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	C — <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	A — the mark ■ in /k■m■pju■t■r/ comes RIGHT BEFORE the second syllable (<i>pu</i>), so that's the stressed syllable: com- PU -ter. B and C are unstressed; D is wrong (every multi-syllable word has at least one stressed syllable).
3. 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	D — <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	A — <i>computer</i> = com- PU -ter (stress on the middle syllable), the same pattern as ba- NAN -a. B (EL-e-phant), C (YES-ter-day), and D (HAP -pi-ness) all stress the FIRST syllable.
6. C	C — <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 — the mark ■ in /d■z■n/ comes right before the SECOND syllable (<i>za■n</i>): de- SIGN . A, C, and D all show the stress mark before the FIRST syllable.
8. D	D — count the dots: un-bi-LIE-va-bul = 5 syllables. The dots between sounds in a respelling show the syllable breaks.
9. A	A — the verb <i>present</i> stresses the second syllable: pre- ZENT , written /pr■z■nt/. B is the noun (PREZ -ent). C uses an unusual vowel; D misspells the consonant.
10. B	B — capital letters in a respelling usually mark the STRESSED syllable. <i>el-uh-FAN-tin</i> stresses FAN : el-uh- FAN -tin (a respelling of <i>elephantine</i>).



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