

# 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)?
- A. computer
  - B. elephant
  - C. yesterday
  - D. happiness
6. Read this dictionary respelling: **ee-MER-jen-see**. Which word does it spell?
- A. energy
  - B. elementary
  - C. emergency
  - D. enormous
7. Which respelling shows the STRESS on the SECOND syllable?
- A. /tɪl.skoʊp/
  - B. /dʒɑːn/
  - C. /lɪtmɪt/
  - D. /r.dɪnri/
8. How many syllables does the word /n.bɪl.vɪb/ have?
- A. three
  - B. four
  - C. six
  - D. 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?
- A. /prɛznt/
  - B. /prɪznt/
  - C. /prɛznt/
  - D. /prɪsnt/
10. In the respelling **el-uh-FAN-tin**, which syllable is STRESSED?
- A. el
  - B. FAN
  - C. uh
  - D. 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 (HAP-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> ).

