

Structure

Different accents

Introduction

A little history

Stress

Why it matters

Different accents

Why is English pronunciation so difficult?

Stress for emphasis

Using your voice

The schwa

Appreciating the magic of this incredible sound

Foreign words

How to avoid comparing your language skills to others



60%

Amount of words that have a Latin or Greek root

350

Number of languages that have contributed to English

650,000

Total estimated number of words in English



Accents

Which one is better?

- There is no “best accent”
- Native speakers often have misunderstanding.
- Avoid confusion by using the IPA.
- Regional differences can be huge!

IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet

A little history

Romans

Celts

Anglo-Saxons

Vikings

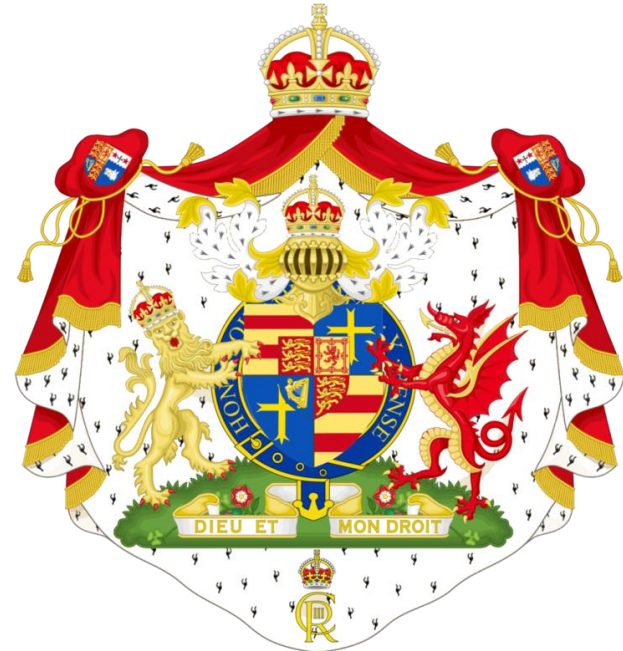


Bienvenue à Londres

William the Conqueror (1066) - Henry V (1420)

Old French : Nobility, Church, Academics, Law

Old English: Merchants, Soldiers, Peasants



Latin based

To inspect
To admire
To depreciate

Liberty
Probability
Retrospect

Additionally

Germanic based

To look into
To look up to
To look down on

Freedom
Likelihood
Hindsight

Furthermore

The French Connection



Ich bin ein Engländer

German influence



Neither vs *neither*



"George von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha"

King George V of Windsor

Why is English difficult



Spanish

27 Letters

22-24 Sounds

36 Rules

English

26 Letters

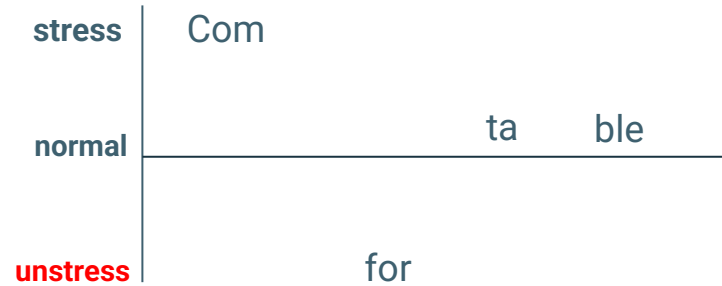
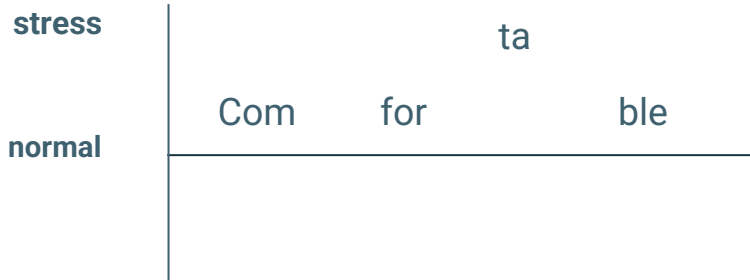
44 Sounds

1258 Rules

Pronunciation



The unstressed syllable



Understanding this is fundamental for your listening comprehension skills!



Like horse-riding

It's easy once you get it!

Vegetable
Interesting
Literature
Temperature

The unstressed syllable

Transforming the vowel

our

favour

/ə/

ion

fashion

/ə/

The syllable is unstressed, the vowel can **disappear** or **change**. If the vowel changes, it becomes the famous /ə/ sound. The Schwa is the **most common sound** in English.

The schwa in practise

The schwa is directly connected to the stress.

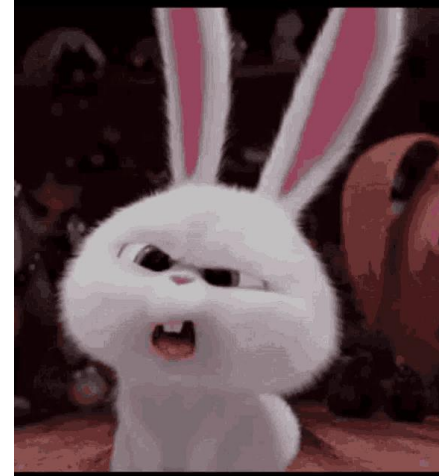
So, when do we use it?

That depends on the type of word.

In general, we use a schwa before or after a **stressed** syllable

The Schwa

A result of the stress



Syllable rules

- 1 syllable words: **content** vs **function** words
- 2 syllable words: **adjectives** + **nouns** vs verbs
- 3 + syllable words: depends on the ending of the root word

Content vs Function words



Stress is important

/ə/

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Look | <i>at</i> | him. | <i>preposition</i> |
| 2. Choose | <i>a</i> | card | <i>article</i> |
| 3. Fish | <i>and</i> | chips | <i>conjunction</i> |
| 4. Who's | <i>your</i> | friend? | <i>possessive pronoun</i> |
| 5. Ann | <i>can</i> | go | <i>auxiliary verb</i> |
| 6. You | <i>were</i> | right. | <i>'to be'</i> |

Understanding the schwa

Exercise

Listen and complete the questions

1. Where _____ live?
2. What _____ say?
3. Where _____ work?
4. What _____ see?
5. Where _____ gone?

2 syllable words

Nouns

Centre
doctor
fashion
level
Number

Adjectives

broken
clever
famous
formal
honest

Verbs

Accept
consult
decide
object
suggest

3 + syllables

The root word

Condition
/ə/

Conditional
/ə/

Conditionally
/ə/

Unconditionally
/ə/

All root words (of 3 syllables or more) ending in –ion are like this.

There are many other word families that follow the same rules

Foreign words

Words that are borrowed



French



Foreign

Ballet

Bon appétit

Chauffeur

Cliché

Crèche

Façade

Coup d'Etat





Norwegian

awkward
egg
fjord
flat
gap
glad
glitter
knife

law
live
rotten
score
skill
skirt
ski
sprint

Arabic

Giraffe

Alchemy

Harem

Alcohol

Bazaar

Algebra

Mosque

Sugar



Native American



Moose

Pecan

Chilli

Toboggan

Tobacco

Potato

Guacamole

Kayak





Lager

Gesundheit

Strudel

Kindergarten

Iceberg

Doppelganger

Quartz

Wunderkind

German

Food and Science

Yiddish



Bagel

Klutz

Schmuck

Schmooze

Kvetch

Glitch

Lox

Mazel tov



Hindi

Shampoo

Bandana

Thug

Guru

Jungle

Loot

Bungalow

Mogul





Dutch

Buoy

Freight

Hoist

Pump

Yacht

Boss

Cookie

Dope

Easel

Snoop

Italian



Al-fresco

Barista

Broccoli

Casino

Malaria

Opera

Soprano

Studio



Spanish



Bravado

Canyon

Cannibal

Cigar

Guerrilla

Macho

Marijuana

Mosquito

Tornado

Vanilla

Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?