

Word Stress in Compound Words

The stress in **compound words** depends on whether the word is a noun, adjective or verb. Most compound nouns take the stress on the first word while adjectives and verbs receive it on the second.

Examples:

Compound nouns

AIRplane/'erpleɪn/
TOOTHbrush/'tu:θbrʌʃ/

Compound adjectives

old-FASHioned/əʊld 'fæʃənd/
new AGE/nu: 'eɪdʒ/

Compound verbs

deTEST/dɪ'test/
underSTAND/ʌndər'stænd/

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs always have the stress on the second word or the preposition. As we will see below, this is an exception to the rules for sentence stress, where the stress is generally on the principle verb.

Examples:

wake UP/weɪk 'ʌp/
work OUT/wɜ:rk 'aʊt/
get OFF/get 'ɔf/

Compound Pronouns

HimSELF

Exercise: Underline the stressed syllable in what follows.

Post-office, English teacher, switch off, ill-mannered, absent-minded, town hall, white-collar, fall apart, sunrise, themselves.

Resource: from

<https://www.curso-ingles.com/en/learn/courses/advanced-level/pronunciation/syllable-stress>