

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Session 10

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Word-stress patterns so far

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 - *,Bearwood 'Road, ,Euston 'Road, etc.*
 - *,Cromptons 'Avenue, ,Ridley 'Avenue, etc.*
 - *,Pheasant 'Close, ,Bedwin 'Close, etc.*
- With one important exception:
'Oxford ,Street, 'Regents ,Street, 'High ,Street, etc.

Stress patterns: Named Buildings

- Named buildings and monuments also have ,xx'xx:
*,Buckingham 'Palace, ,Albert 'Hall, ,National 'Gallery,
,Westminster 'Abbey, ,Stone'henge, ,Marble 'Arch, ,Euston
'Station, ,Covent 'Garden, etc.*

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- Exception: 'xx *Mu,seum*:
*'Science Mu,seum, National 'History Mu,seum, The Vic,toria
and 'Albert Mu,seum, etc.*

Stress patterns: Bodies of Water

- Seas and lakes, etc. have ,xx'xx:
the ,North 'Sea (compare: 'Nord,see), *the ,English 'Channel*
(compare: 'Ärmelka,nal), *,Loch 'Ness*, *,Lake 'Michigan*,
Ni,agara 'Falls, etc.

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- And compare:
the At'lantic but: *the At,lantic 'Ocean*
the Pa'cific but: *the Pa,cific 'Ocean*

Stress patterns: Adj. + Noun

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- The first category is clearly problematical for German speakers. *They just have to be learned!*
- And there are pitfalls (because German has exceptions too):
the 'White ,House – das ,Weiße 'Haus (not a compound), etc.

Stress patterns: Other pitfalls

- Unfortunately, a number of English 'xx,xx noun compounds have become German words. . . and have changed to a non-German pattern!

English

German

<i>'make-,up</i>	<i>,Make-'up</i>	<i>/,me:k'ʔap/</i>
<i>'know-,how</i>	<i>,Know-'how</i>	<i>/,no:'haʊ/</i>
<i>'come,back</i>	<i>,Come'back</i>	<i>/,kam'bæk/</i>
<i>'check,in</i>	<i>,Check-'in</i>	<i>/,tʃɛk'ʔɪn/</i>
<i>'count,down</i>	<i>,Count'down</i>	<i>/,kaʊnt'daʊn/</i>
<i>'pull,over</i>	<i>,Pull'over</i>	<i>/,pʊ'lo:və/</i>
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- But not all the loans necessarily change:
'work,out – *'Work,out* */'vœək,ʔaʊt/*

Stress patterns: Adj. + Past Participle

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,short-'sighted, ,blue-'blooded, ,thick-'skinned, ,long-'haired, ,fine-'tuned, ,thin-'waisted, etc.
- The same pattern applies even if the word before the participle is not an adjective:
Noun + PP: *,lily-'livered, ,gold-'plated, ,felt-'tipped, etc.*
Adverb + PP: *,well-be'haved, etc.* As always, there are exceptions (Noun + PP): *'flood,lit, etc.*

Stress patterns: Stress shift!

- Adjectives can be used both **predicatively**:

he's ,over'paid

and **attributively**:

He's an 'over,paid 'manager

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,lily-'livered → 'lily-,livered 'coward

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- Not really a problem: a similar stress shift occurs in German:
Die Ausstellung war ,gut be'sucht. – Eine 'gut be,suchte 'Ausstellung

Stress patterns: Phrasal verbs

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- Some word sequences can operate as phrasal verbs or as verb + (unstressed) preposition, e.g.:

<i>run + down</i>	<i>He ,ran the others 'down.</i>	= phrasal verb
vs.	<i>He 'ran down the 'hill.</i>	= verb + prep.
<i>turn + in</i>	<i>The thief ,turned himself 'in.</i>	= phrasal verb
vs.	<i>Beethoven 'turned in his 'grave.</i>	= verb + prep.

Stress patterns: Adjectives from Phrasal verbs

- Phrasal verbs: *to ,wear 'out* *to ,tire 'out*
Adj.: *,worn 'out* *,tired 'out*
“She was feeling *,worn 'out* *,tired 'out*.”
(But remember stress-shift!: *Her 'worn-,out 'shoes*)

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- Other examples:
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- Some adjectives are similar but have no corresponding phrasal verb: “She was feeling completely *,fed-'up*.”

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- The stress-shift phenomena are probably not as bad as you think. The same thing happens in German.

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It was a disaster and nearly caused them to break up.

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