The Phonetics of English Pronunciation 11
Word-Stress in compounds

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Topics

- Completion of Word-Stress survey

  Read again:

  Section VI.2, pp. 188-212

  and Section VII.2, pp. 239-243

- Transcription exercise: "Elision, assimilation and stress" etc.

5th Homework (1)

Please transcribe with *all weak forms, linking forms and segmental variants*, and mark with ' the *stressed* syllable of the *accented* words (i.e., the words that are „important" for the message of the sentence): (US versions in blue)

1. There was no excuse for leaving the old lady standing in the
[ðə wəz 'nəʊ‿ʷ‿ɪks'kjuːs fə 'liːvɪŋ ðɪ‿ʲ‿'əʊld 'leɪdi 'stændɪŋ‿ɪn̩‿ðə
ðɚ   fɚ   oʊld

   middle of the road,
   'mɪdl̩‿əv ðə 'rəʊd]
                  roʊd

2. Constant practice is boring, but it is essential for success.
   ['kɒnstənt 'præktɪs‿ɪz 'bɔːrɪŋ bʌt‿ɪts‿ə'senʃl̩ fə sək'ses]
    'kɑːnstənt   fɚ

5th Homework (2)

3. *How could the group have avoided the frictions and*
   ['haʊ kəd‿ðə 'gruːp‿əv‿ə'vɔɪdɪd‿ðə 'frɪkʃənz‿ən

   disagreements that led to their break-up?
   dɪsə'griːmənts‿zət 'led tə ðe(ə) 'breɪk‿ˌʌp]
   ðer

4. *They had no idea who the last person was who saw*
   [ðeɪ d 'nəʊ‿ʷ‿aɪ'dɪə 'huː ðə 'lɑːs(t) 'pɜːsn̩ 'wɒz hʊ 'sɔː
       noʊ   'læs(t) 'pɝːsn̩ 'wɑːz

   the young girl on Monday.
   ðə 'jʌŋ 'gɜːl ɒn 'mʌndeɪ]
        gɝːl ɑn

5. Where on earth have I put my spectacles?

   ['weər‿ɒn‿'ɜːθ‿əv‿aɪ 'pʊt maɪ 'spektəkl̩z]
        ɑn‿'ɝː:θ

5th Homework (3)

Transcribe and mark the *primary* (') and *secondary* (ˌ) stress in the following address names:

ˌEton 'Place;   ˌBrighton 'Road;   'Carnaby ˌStreet;

[ˌiːtn̩ 'pleɪs]   [ˌbraitn̩ 'rəʊ(oʊ)d]   [ˌkɑː(r)nəbi 'striːt]

ˌRidley 'Avenue;   'Oxford ˌStreet;   ˌPageant 'Court;

[ˌrɪdli‿ʲ‿'ævənjuː]   ['ɒ(ɑː)ksfə(ər)d ˌstriːt] [ˌpædʒn̩t 'kɔː(r)t]

ˌGordon 'Square;   ˌSmugglers 'Wharf;   'Conduit ˌStreet;

[ˌgɔː(r)dn̩ 'skweə(r)]   [ˌsmʌglə(ər)z 'wɔːf]   ['kɒ(ɑː)ndjuɪt ˌstriːt]

ˌChestnut 'Lane;   ˌPheasant 'Close

[ˌtʃesnʌt 'leɪn]   [ˌfezn̩t 'kləʊ(oʊ)s]

All these address names have a weak - strong (ˌ ') pattern except Carnaby Street, Oxford Street and Conduit Street (*See the general rule in last week's script*).

Word-stress patterns so far

- ***German compounds*** generally have the main stress on the left-most elements: ˈ*Fröschen*ˌ*gasse*.

  This is often also be the case in English, but there are some easily remembered word-classes that are different – i.e., the main stress is on the right:

  ˌ*Bayswater* ˈ***Road*** and ˈ***Tottenham*** ˌ*Court* ˈ***Road,***

- Generally: all ROAD NAMES belong to this category:
  ˌxx ˈ*Road*: ˌBearwood ˈ**Road**,   ˌEuston ˈ**Road**, etc
  ˌxx ˈ*Avenue*: ˌCromptons ˈ**Avenue**,   ˌRidley ˈ**Avenue**
  ˌxx ˈ*Close*, ˌPheasant ˈ**Close**,   ˌBedwin ˈ**Close**
  <u>*One important exception*</u>: ˈ**xx** ˌ*Street*:
  ˈ**Oxford** ˌStreet, ˈ**Regents** ˌStreet, ˈ**High** ˌStreet

As with ANY rules in language, there are exceptions, and the statement that German compounds have a strong-weak pattern is probably not 100% true. Can you think of any exceptions? (Please let me know if you can).

There are, of course, road names that are prepositional phrases, such as "ˌ*Auf der* ˈ*Höh*", "*In der* ˈ*Schleene*", which can be (must be?) pronounced with a weak-strong pattern.

Note that the *weak-strong* pattern in a two-element name becomes *strong-weak-strong* with three elements (with *weak-weak-strong* as an alternative), but the head of the compound is still the rightmost element.

Stress patterns: Named Buildings

- <u>Named buildings</u> and monuments also have ˌxxˈ**xx**:

  ˌ*Buckingham* ˈ***Palace****,* ˌ*Albert* ˈ***Hall****,* ˌ*National* ˈ***Gallery***
  ˌ*Westminster* ˈ***Abbey****,* ˌ*Stone*ˈ***henge****,* ˌ*Marble* ˈ***Arch***
  ˌ*Euston* ˈ***Station****,* ˌ*Covent* ˈ***Garden***

And remember, with three element: ˈ**xx**ˌxxˈ**xx**
  ˈ***Tottenham*** ˌ*Court* ˈ***Road,***

Exception: ˈxx-<u>*Mu*ˌ*seum*</u>:

  ˈ***Science*** *Mu*ˌ*seum,* ˌ*National* ˈ***History*** *Mu*ˌ*seum,*
  *The Vic*ˌ*toria and* ˈ***Albert*** *Mu*ˌ*seum*

But not just roads and similar address-linked places; also buildings and institutions have the *weak-strong* pattern.

Here you are given some examples of well-known places (in Britain) which you might be tempted to pronounce with the wrong stress pattern.

But American institutions follow the same pattern, though with some important individual exceptions – e.g. the ˈ**White** ˌHouse
(however, this is actually quite regular, because many xx-house compounds have a *strong-weak* pattern: E.g., ˈ**green**ˌhouse, ˈ**dower**ˌhouse, "ˈ**Buck** ˌHouse" (a colloquial name for Buckingham Palace)

But, following the rule we have: ˌCarnegie ˈ**Hall**, ˌCentral ˈ**Park**, etc.

And as three-element examples:

  ˈJohn ˌHancock ˈ**Tower**, ˈEmpire ˌState ˈ**Building**

Why museums deviate from this exception? ……. No idea!

Stress patterns: Water!

- <u>Seas and Lakes</u> etc. have ˌxxˈ**xx**:

  *The ˌNorth ˈ**Sea** (compare: ˈ**Nord**ˌsee)*
  *The ˌEnglish ˈ**Channel** (ˈ**Ärmel**kaˌnal)*
  *ˌLoch ˈ**Ness**, ˌLake ˈ**Michigan**, Niˌagara ˈ**Falls***

- <u>And compare:</u>

  The Atˈ**lan**tic   but: The Atˌlantic ˈ**Ocean**
  The Paˈ**cif**ic   but: The Paˌcific ˈ**Ocean**

Another category of places are what one could call "areas of water " (lakes seas etc.).

But the pattern also seems to apply to compound geographical place-names in general:

The ˌGrand ˈ**Canyon,** ˌMount ˈ**Everest** (compare: ˈ**Everest),** the Saˌhara ˈ**Desert** (compare: the Saˈ**hara),**

Stress patterns: Adj+Noun

- ***Adjective + Noun***: Same in English and German:
  ˌred ˈhair ˌrote ˈHaare;   ˌblue ˈsky ˌblauer ˈHimmel

  But ***Adj+Noun compounds*** are (unfortunately) variable:
  - Some contrast with the German ˈxxˌxx pattern:
      ˌshort ˈ***story***   vs. ˈ***Kurz***geˌschichte
      ˌcivil ˈ***war***   vs. ˈ***Bürger***ˌkrieg
  - But many English Adj+Noun compounds ***are*** ˈ**xx**ˌxx:
      ˈ***black***ˌbird, ˈ***blue***ˌprint, ˈ***short***ˌbread, ˈ***dark***ˌroom,
- The ***first category*** is clearly problematical for
  German speakers.   ***They just have to be learned!***

- And ***there are pitfalls (because German has exceptions too):***

  E.g., The ˈ***White*** ˌ*House* vs. das ˌ*Weiße* ˈ***Haus*** (not a compound?)

Although many compounds comprising adj. + noun do have the default, first-syllable stress, there are many exceptions …… and there does not seem to be a semantic grouping to help you. They just have to be learned.

Remember too, compounds very often have a different meaning from the sum of their component meanings!

Note the contrast between ˈ*sleeping* ˌ*partner* and ˌ*sleeping* ˈ*partner*.

A ˈ*sleeping* ˌ*partner* is not a partner who is a sleep, but an inactive business partner (*ein stiller Teilhaber*).

Stress patterns: Other pitfalls!

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

  Engl. ***ˈmake-ˌup***   → Germ. *Make-**up*** /ˌmeːk ˈʔap/
         ˈknow-ˌhow   →   *Know-**how*** /ˌnoː ˈhaʊ/
         ˈcomeˌback   →   *Come**back*** /ˌkamˈbɛk/
         ˈcheck-ˌin   →   *Check-**in*** /ˌtʃɛkˈʔɪn/

  Similarly: the ˈ**count**ˌdown, ˈ**pull**ˌover, ˈ**show**ˌdown,
            ˈ**sit**-ˌin, ˈ**drive**-ˌin, ˈ**cover**-ˌup, ˈ**lay**ˌout

- ***But not all the loans necessarily change:***
  a ˈ***work**ˌout* stays as *Work**out*** / ˈvœɐ̯kˌʔaʊt

We commented at the beginning of the section on stress that there are
exceptions in German as well as in English.

But when the exceptions in German do NOT run parallel with the English
stress pattern, we are faced with interference again, as we saw with

the ˈ*White* ˌ*House* vs. das ˌ*Weiße* ˈ*Haus*!

But there are other cases where German uses a non-typical ***weak-strong***
pattern for words borrowed from English …….. where English has the
standard ***strong-weak*** compound

Stress patterns: Adj.+Past Participle

- Compounds comprising an ***Adjective + Past participle***: usually differ from German (in the way we have come to expect):

  ˌover'***paid*** vs. '***überbe***ˌ***zahlt***

  This is a very common form of adjectival compound:

  ˌshort-'***sighted***, ˌblue-'***blooded***, ˌthick-'***skinned***

  ˌlong-'***haired***, ˌfine-'***tuned***, ˌthin-'***waisted***, etc.

- The same pattern applies, even if the word before the participle is not an adjective:

  Noun + PP: ˌlily-'***livered***, ˌgold-'***plated***, ˌfelt-'***tipped***

  Adverb + PP: ˌwell-be'***haved***,

  As always, an exception (Noun + PP): '***flood***ˌlit

Although adj. + noun compounds are unpredictable, ***adj. + past participle*** compounds are a grouping that generally go against the default pattern, and in most cases ***noun + past-participle*** also follows this second-element stress pattern.

The potential interference from German is often present:

'*Kurz*ˌ*sichtig*, '*lang*ˌ*haarig*,

Stress patterns: Stress **shift!**

- *Unfortunately!!* Adjectives can be used both
  predicatively: *He's ˌoverˈpaid* and
  attributively: *He's an ˈoverˌpaid eˈxecutive*.

  The stress pattern has shifted! – to avoid having two stresses
  too close together.

- This stress-shift takes place whenever a ˌxxˈ**xx** adjective
  is used attributively:

ˌlily-ˈ**livered**	→	a ˈ**lily**-ˌlivered ˈcoward
ˌwell-beˈ**haved**	→	a ˈ**well**-ˌbehaved ˈchild
ˌgold-ˈ**plated**	→	a ˈ**gold**-ˌplated ˈwatch
ˌfelt-ˈ**tipped**	→	a ˈ**felt**-ˌtipped ˈpen

  Not really a problem: A similar stress shift occurs in German:
  *Das Konzert war ˌgut beˈ**sucht** → Ein ˈ**gut** beˌsuchtes Konˈzert*.

The topic at the beginning of this lecture was the effect of putting words together.

Putting compounds into a string of words can also affect their stress pattern.

The second-element stress leads to a so-called „*stress clash*" when the words precede another stressed word.

This leads to a „*stress shift*". The second element no longer bears the main stress; this is heard on the first element (i.e., the stress pattern reverts to the default first element).

If you think about it, the same shift takes place in German:

Das Kon**zert** war gut be**sucht**. - Es war ein recht **gut** besuchtes Kon**zert**.

Stress patterns: Phrasal verbs

- ***Phrasal verbs*** have a ˌxxˈxx pattern:
  He was tired but he ˌkept ˈon and didn't ˌgive ˈup.

There are great many phrasal verbs; here's a sample:
  ˌcover ˈup, ˌpoint ˈout, ˌpull ˈout, ˌpile ˈup, ˌclose ˈdown, ˌshut ˈup, ˌshut ˈdown, ˌpull ˈdown, ˌturn ˈover,

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

  | *run + down*: | He ˌ*ran* the ˌothers ˈ*down*. | = phr. vb. |
  | | vs. | He ˈ*ran down* the ˈ*hill*. | = vb. + prep. |

  | *turn + in*: | The thief ˌ*turned* himself ˈ*in*. | = phr. vb. |
  | | vs. | Beethoven ˈ*turned in* his ˈgrave. | = vb. + prep. |

Similar to German ***separable*** and ***non-separable*** verbs (ˈ*umˌfahren* vs ˌ*umˈfahren*), which have different meanings, although they comprise the same sound elements, there are ***phrasal verbs*** (ˌ*run* ˈ*down*) in English that are made up of the same sound elements as ***verb + preposition*** combinations (ˈ*run + down +Noun)*) .

The phrasal verbs stress the particle, whereas the verb + preposition combination does NOT stress the preposition.

Stress patterns: Adjectives from Phrasal verbs

- ***Phrasal verbs:*** to ˌwear ˈ**out;**   to ˌtire ˈ**out**:
  - *Adj:*   ˌworn ˈ**out;**   ˌtired ˈ**out**
  - *"She was feeling ˌworn ˈ**out** / ˌtired ˈ**out** " (erschöpft)*

(But remember stress-shift!: "**Her ˈworn-ˌout ˈshoes**")

Other examples:
  - to ˌrun ˈ**down** →   to feel ˌrun ˈ**down (ausgelaugt) ;**
  - to ˌchill ˈ**out**   →   to be ˌchilled ˈ**out**

Some adjectives are similar but have <u>no</u> corresponding phrasal verb:

  - She was feeling completely ˌfed-ˈ**up.** (deprimiert/sauer)

The past participle of some phrasal verbs can be used as adjectives, which retain the main stress on the second element when the are used as predicative adjectives
(but undergo stress-shift if they are used attributively)

Most of the adjectives retain the meaning of the phrasal verb (*worn out*, *tired out*, etc.,), but sometimes there is an adjective where the corresponding verb has a very different meaning.

To be „run down" is to feel ill, exhausted, but „to run down" means to knock someone down with a car or something similar.

Similarly, to be „fed-up" means to be depressed, but „to feed up" means to give (usually) an animal food to fatten it (e.g., ready for slaughter)-

Stress patterns - Conclusions

- Stress causes STRESS!

- There are some regular sources of interference,
  which we have dealt with ……
      … and which you need to learn and remember.

- There is no escaping the need to learn and, as with other
  aspects of pronunciation, to OVERLEARN
  the stress patterns of the words you learn.

  Otherwise, they will not be correct when you are busy
  thinking what to say (rather than how to say it!)

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

No more comments on the summary and conclusions, but you may wonder what examples there are of stress-shift in German.

If you take the adjective + past-participle adjectival phrase: ˌgut geˈlaunt in the predicative position: *Sie ist ˌgut geˈlaunt* the stress pattern is weak-strong

Then place it in an attributive position before a noun:

„Ein ˈgut geˌlaunter ˈMensch", you will notice that it shifts to strong-weak.

Transcription exercise

Pay special attention to possible assimilation and elision cases, and mark the stresses (main and secondary in the compounds).

Last Sunday, Susan and Peter went to an old-fashioned garden-party in the gardens of the Town Hall. It was a disaster and nearly caused them to break up. The trouble was, Susan did not realise it was going to be old-fashioned. She expected something more hi-tec and trendy. After a show-down in the middle of the first speech – by Lady somebody-or-other – she walked out on him. Peter was totally fed-up, but I heard that they made up again later.

Transcription exercise (part 1)

Last Sunday, Susan and Peter went to an old-fashioned

[ˈlɑːs‿ˈsʌndeɪ   ˈsuːzn̩‿ən ˈpiːtə   ˈwen(t)‿tʊʷən‿ˈəʊld ˌfæʃn̩d
[ˈlæs‿ˈsʌndeɪ   ˈsuːzn̩‿ən ˈpiːtˠə˞   ˈwen(t)‿tʊʷən‿ˈoʊld ˌfæʃn̩d

garden-party in the gardens of the Town Hall.

ˈgɑːdn̩ ˌpɑːtiˈɪŋ ðə ˈgɑːdn̩z‿əv   ðə ˌtaʊn ˈhɔːl
ˈgɑːrdn̩ ˌpɑːrɾiˈɪŋ ðə ˈgɑːrdn̩z‿əv

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

ɪt wəz‿ə dɪˈzɑːstəˡən‿ˈnɪəli ˈkɔːzd̩ ðəm   tə ˌbreɪk‿ˈʌp
ɪt wəz‿ə dɪˈzæstə˞‿ən‿ˈnɪə˞li ˈkɔːzd̩ ðəm

Transcription exercise (part 2)

The trouble was, Susan did not realise it was
ðə ˈtrʌbl̩ ˈwɒz   ˌsuːzn̩ ˈdɪdn̩t ˈrɪəlaɪz ɪt wəz
ˈwɑːz

going to be old-fashioned.
ˈɡəʊɪn tə bij ˌəʊld ˈfæʃn̩d
ˈɡoʊɪn tə bʲ ˌoʊld ˈfæʃn̩d

She expected something more hi-tec and trendy.
ʃij ɪkˈspektɪd   ˈsʌmθɪŋ ˈmɔː ˌhaɪ ˈtek ən ˈtrendi
ˈmɔr

Transcription exercise (part3)

After a show-down in the middle of the first speech –

ˈɑːftə^rə ˈʃəʊˌdaʊn ɪn ðə   ˈmɪdl̩ əv ðə   ˈfɜːs ˈspiːtʃ
ˈæftɚ ə ˈʃoʊˌdaʊn   ˈfɜrs

by Lady somebody-or-other – she walked out on him.

baɪ ˈleɪdi ˌsʌmbədiʲə^rˌʌðə   ʃi ˌwɔːkt ˈaʊt ɒn ɪm
ˌsʌmbədiʲɚ ˌʌðɚ   ˈaʊt ɑn ɪm

Peter was totally fed-up, but I heard that they

ˈpiːtə wəz ˈtəʊtl̩i ˌfed ˈʌp bət aɪ ˈhɜːd ðət ðeɪ
ˈpiːtɚ wəz ˈtoʊˈl̩i   bət aɪ ˈhɜrd ðət ðeɪ

made up again later.

ˌmeɪd ˈʌp əgen ˈleɪtə
ˈleɪtɚ