

## WORD AND EMPHATIC STRESS

A syllable is a unit of sound in a given word. A word like 'give' or 'sat' has only one syllable (i.e. one unit of sound) whereas a word like 'attack' or 'movement' has two syllables.

Any word that has more than one syllable requires a stress.

### IDENTIFYING STRESS SYLLABLE

A stressed syllable is indicated by the stress marker. For instance, the word 'silent' has its stress on the first syllable. However, the word 'review' is stressed on the second syllable.

N/B: the word convenient has 3 syllables. COM-mu-ni-sm has four syllables. The stressed syllable is indicated by the use of capital letters.

### LAWS OF STRESS

1. Any two syllable word that is a verb often takes its stress on the second syllable. Example: a-TTACK, ig-NORE, de-SIST, etc.
2. Any two syllable word that is a noun should be stressed on the first syllable. Example: MOVE-ment, A-pple, TA-ble, SI-ster, FA-ther, etc.
3. Any word that ends in sm or ist should be stressed on the first syllable from left. Example: FE-de-ra-list, COM-mu-nist, IN-du-stria-list, FA-sci-sm, etc.
4. Any word that has a prefix before ending in sm or ist should carry the stress on the first syllable after the prefix. Example: pai-A-ni-fri-ca-ni-sm, post-COM-mu-ni-sm, re-VI-va-li-sm, etc.
5. Word ending with the following should be stressed on the second syllable from right to left.
  - a. \_\_\_ion, e.g. a-CCO-mo-DA-tion, de-Cl-sion, trans-por-TA-tion, fa-NA-tic, etc.
  - b. \_\_\_ic/ics, e.g. PU-blic, na-tio-na-LI-stic, e-co-NO-mics, spe-Cl-fic, ma-the-MA-tics, me-CHA-nics, se-MAN-tic, etc.
  - c. \_\_\_ian/ial, e.g. e-lec-TRI-cian, ju-DI-cial, ma-the-ma-TI-cian, etc.

- d. \_\_\_\_ient, e.g. con-VE-nient, de-FI-cient, pro-FI-cient, re-CI-pient, e-FFI-cient, etc.
- e. \_\_\_\_um/ium, e.g. pan-de-MO-tum, com-PEN-dium, me-mo-RAN-dum, a-DDEN-dum, etc.
- f. \_\_\_\_ious/ual, e.g. con-TI-nious, in-DUS-trious, re-SI-dual, un-U-sual, etc.