

Stress in Simple Words

Stress can be studied from the point of view of “production” and “perception” i.e. We have two views to determine the stress depending on the speaker and the hearer:-

- 1- From the speaker (the production): what the speaker does in producing stressed syllable, the speaker uses more muscular energy than is used for unstressed syllable, when he produces stressed syllable, he expels air from lungs more active (producing higher).
- 2- From the hearer (the perception): he can decide whether the syllable stressed or not according to the prominence of the syllable.

Prominence consists of four factors:

- 1- **Louder**
- 2- **Length of the sound**
- 3- **Pitch**
- 4- **Quality**

The Nature of Stress

Stress can be studied from two points of view (production and perception). The production of stress depends on the speaker using more muscular energy than is used for unstressed syllable. The perception can recognize the stress syllable that has at least one characteristic in common which is called **prominence**.

Prominence of the syllable is determined by four different factors:

- 1- **Loudness:** stress syllable are louder than unstressed syllable, e.g. (**the nonsense utterance**):

ba: ba: **ba:** ba:
 loud

- 2- **Length:** when syllables are made longer than the others, then they are heard stressed e.g.

ba: **ba:** ba: ba:
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 long

- 3- **The pitch:** pitch in speech is closely related to the frequency of the vibration of the vocal cords and to the musical notion of low and high pitched notes.
- 4- **Quality:** a syllable will tend to be prominent if it contains a vowel that differs in quality from the neighboring vowels e.g.:

ba: ba: bi: ba:

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 odd