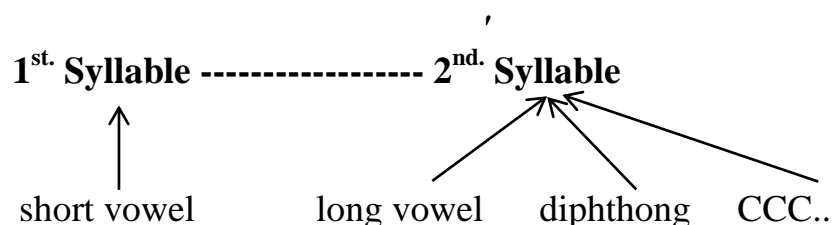


Rules of Stress in Two Syllable Words

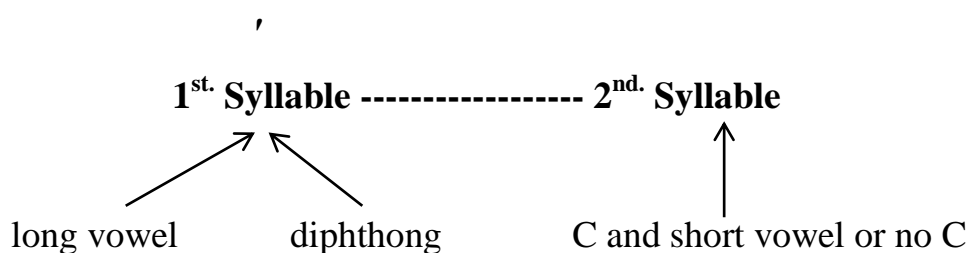
- 1- **Verbs:** either the first or the second syllable will be stressed (not both). The basic rule is that: if the second syllable of the verb is a strong syllable, then it is stressed, e.g.:



Ex.:

Apply /ə 'plai/, **arrive** /ə 'raiv/

If the final syllable is weak, then the first syllable will be stressed, e.g.



Ex.:

open /'əʊpən/, **equal** /'i:kwəl/.

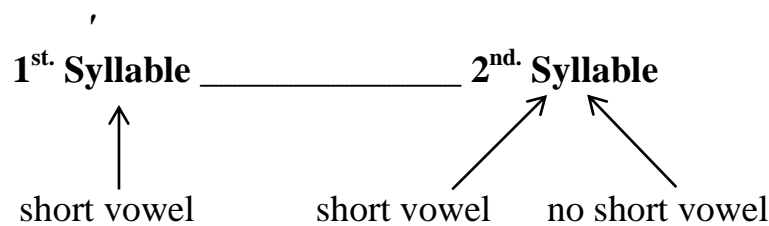
exception: the final syllable is unstressed if it contains /əʊ/:

follow /'fəʊləʊ/, **borrow** /'bɒrəʊ/.

According to the rules in the word '**permit**' /pə:'mit/, the stress should be on the first syllable but in this word the stress is on the second because this word contains two parts (per) and (mit). It is an exception because it has affixes; the rules are on simple words only that have no affixes.

- 2- **Adjectives:** simple two syllable adjectives follow the same rules, e.g. '**divine**' /di'vain/. It is a simple two syllable adjective, the second one contains a diphthong, therefore, the second syllable is stressed. Another example is: '**alive**' /ə'laiv/.

- 3- **Nouns:** nouns require different rules: if the second syllable contains a short vowel, the stress will be on the first syllable. Otherwise, the stress will be on the second syllable, i.e.:



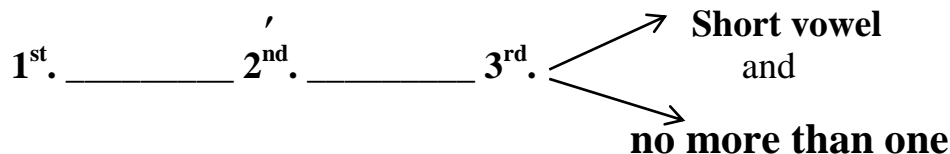
e.g. **product** /'prodʌkt/, **money** /'mʌni/.

Other two syllable words such as **Adverbs** and **Prepositions** will follow the same rules.

Rules of Stress in Three Syllable Words

1- Verbs:

- a-** If the last syllable contains a short vowel and ends with not more than one consonant:



consonant

ex.: encounter /ɪn'kəuntə/

The stress will be on the penultimate syllable (the second one).

- b-** If the final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong or unless one consonant, it will take the stress.



Ex.: entertain /entə'tein/: the third syllable has diphthong.

resurrect /rezə'rekt/: the third syllable has two consonants.

2- Nouns:

- a-** if the final syllable contains a short vowel or /əu/ it will be **NOT** stressed.



- b-** if the final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong or ends with more than one consonant, it will have the stress:



The second syllable must be stressed as in:

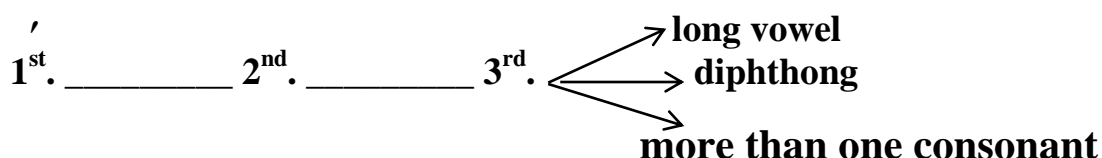
potato /pə'teɪtəʊ/, **disaster** /di'zɑ:stə/

According to the word '**potato**' /pə'teɪtəʊ/, the second syllable is stressed because it is a noun with three syllables and the final one has the diphthong /əu/ and the second has a diphthong.

- c-** If the final syllable contains a short vowel and the middle one contains a short vowel and ends with not more than one consonant, both final and middle are not stressed and the first syllable will take the stress, e.g.

quantity /'kwɒntəti/, **cinema** /'sɪnɪmə/

- d-** If the final syllable contains a long vowel or diphthong or end with more than one consonant, we will not examine the second syllable, because the stress will be on the first syllable.



ex.: intellect /'ɪnt,lekt/, **alkali** /'ælkə,ləi/

In this case, the first syllable is most prominent, the second syllable has no prominence and the third one is most prominent than the second but less prominence, therefore, it usually has secondary stress.

The last syllable remains having an element of prominence, so it usually carries a secondary stress and the primary stress will be on the first syllable.

3- Adjectives:

They seem to need the same rules to produce stress patterns such as:

opportune /'opətju:n/, **insolent** /'insɪnət/.

The above examples are three syllable simple adjectives, the final syllable in each has long vowel and the second one has two consonants, therefore, the stress should be on the first syllable.

Note: Review the examples in your text book, please.