

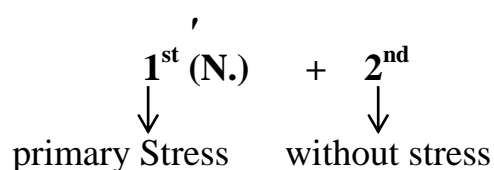
Stress in Compound Words

Compound Word Stress:

Compound words are made of two or more independent English words. They consist more than one grammatical unit (roots). Sometimes they are separated by hyphen, e.g.: *armchair*, and sometimes they are written with two words separated by a space e.g.: **desk lamp**. There is no clear dividing line between two-word compounds and pairs of words.

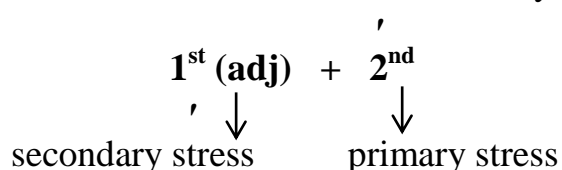
Rules of placing stress for compound words:

- 1- If the first element is a noun it will have the primary stress e.g.:



e.g.: **typewriter** /'taɪpraɪtə/, **sunrise** /'sʌnraɪs/. **car-ferry** /'kɑːfeɪri/

- 2- If the first part of compound word is an adjective, the stress goes on the second element with a secondary stress on the first e.g.



e.g.: **loudspeaker** /ˌlaʊd'spiːkə/, **bad-tempered** /ˌbæd'tempəd/.

The exceptions:

The exceptions to this rule are words which have become to be treated as simple words rather than compounds. Their meanings are no longer derived from their constituent parts for example: **greenhouse** /griːnhaʊs/. It is neither green nor house. It is an exception because it is derived from green-house (grammatical) but *greenhouse* is not really green and it is not a house. Other examples are:

gentleman /dʒentlɪmən/, **background**, **bluebell**, **broadcast**.

Verbal Stress

There are many pairs of two-syllable words with identical spelling but differ in stress placement according to their word class (verb, noun or adjectives). If the

word is verb, the stress will be placed on the second syllable. If the word is considered as a noun or an adjective, the stress will be placed on the first syllable.

e.g.: object (N) /'obdʒekt/..... Object (V) /ob'dʒekt/.

***PLEASE, READ THE LIST OF WORD-CLASS PAIRS IN
YOUR TEXT BOOK ON PAGE 87.***