

## Word Stress #2: Two Syllable Noun/Verb Contrasts

### Review: Two Syllable Word Stress

**Rule1:** Stress the first syllable

Most **2-syllable nouns** (PRESent, EXport, CHIna, TAbLe)

Most **2-syllable adjectives** (PRESent, SLENDER, CLEVer, HAPpy)

**Rule 2:** Stress the last syllable

Most **2-syllable verbs** (to preSENT, to exPORT, to deCIDE, to beGIN)

### Two Syllable Noun/Verb Contrasts:

There are many noun-verb pairs where the only difference is the word stress.

For example: PRESent (noun) : I bought you a PRESent for your birthday.

preSENT (verb) : I don't like to preSENT in front of the class.

OBject (noun) : That's a very strange OBject!

obJECT (verb) : Why do you obJECT?

### Practice 1:

Student A read aloud either **a** (noun) or **b** (verb). Student B listen and read the sentence which contains the word you hear your partner say—either the noun or the verb.

Student A	Student B
a. <b>insult</b> (n)	Was that an <b>insult</b> ?
b. <b>insult</b> (v)	Don't <b>insult</b> the guests.
a. <b>produce</b> (n)	They sell <b>produce</b> at the market.
b. <b>produce</b> (v)	Will you be able to <b>produce</b> anything?
a. <b>contract</b> (n)	When should we sign the <b>contract</b> ?
b. <b>contract</b> (v)	Be careful not to <b>contract</b> his cold.
a. <b>progress</b> (n)	Wow, you made a lot of <b>progress</b> !
b. <b>progress</b> (v)	Be careful to <b>progress</b> slowly.
a. <b>object</b> (n)	That is an interesting <b>object</b> .
b. <b>object</b> (v)	I have to <b>object</b> to that statement.
a. <b>record</b> (n)	I'll keep a <b>record</b> of that.
b. <b>record</b> (v)	He'll <b>record</b> his voice.
a. <b>conflict</b> (n)	My schedule has a <b>conflict</b> .
b. <b>conflict</b> (v)	Their ideas <b>conflict</b> .
a. <b>present</b> (n)	Did you like your <b>present</b> ?
b. <b>present</b> (v)	She will <b>present</b> it to the class.
a. <b>subject</b> (n)	What is the next <b>subject</b> ?
b. <b>subject</b> (v)	Don't <b>subject</b> us to that noise again!

**Practice 2:** With your partner, decide which word should be used in each sentence. Then take turns reading the sentences. Listen to make sure that your partner stresses the correct syllable.

1. Whenever I suggest going to KTV, my roommate (OBjects/ obJECTS ).
2. When it is my turn to (PRESent / preSENT), I always get nervous.
3. What was your favorite (SUBject / subJECT) in primary school?
4. I'm afraid I'll (CONtract / conTRACT) a disease if I go to the hospital.
5. The teacher keeps a (REcord / reCORD) of attendance.
6. During their argument, the boy yelled an (INSult / inSULT) at his friend.
7. How can we (PROduce / proDUCE) our goods at a lower cost?
8. Our country makes (PROgress / proGRESS) every year.
9. I always try to avoid (CONflict / conFLICT).

**Practice 3: Communicative Practice:**

In groups of 3 or 4, discuss the questions below. Someone in your group should begin the discussion by asking the question. When you're answering the question, try to use as many words as possible from the question to make it clear what you're talking about (*see the example below*). Make sure to listen carefully to each other and to take turns as you explain your answers. Begin by practicing the example dialogue below with your group:

**Example Dialogue:**

A: If someone inSULTS you, what is the best way to avoid a CONflict?

B: I think the best way to avoid a CONflict if someone inSULTS you, is to stay calm.

C: I agree with you. I think it's important not to get angry when someone inSULTS you. What do you think? [looking at A]

A: I think you're both right. If you get angry when someone inSULTS you, then you will probably inSULT the other person back, and you will start a CONflict.

B: So it sounds like we all agree that we shouldn't get angry when someone inSULTS us.

C: Yes, but the problem is that it's easy to say, but hard to do!

A: That's very true!

**Questions:**

1. What is the best way to make PROgress in learning English?
  2. Which SUBject is the most important for children to study in school?
  3. What do you think is the best birthday PRESent you could give your parents?
  4. What should you do if you and your roommates agree to clean your room on Saturday, but one roommate obJECTS?
  5. Is it better to buy PROduce in a large supermarket or in a small local shop? \*
- \*(PROduce is fresh fruits and vegetables)