Word Stress and Part of Speech

Some words can be either nouns or verbs. Often, you can tell whether a word is functioning in a sentence as a noun or a verb by which syllable of the word is stressed. In the example below, the stressed syllable in the word is underlined.

I read the <u>ab</u>stract (noun) for that paper.

I am trying to ab<u>stract</u> (verb) some meaning from this.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Is the underlined word functioning as a noun or as a verb? Double-underline the stressed syllable in the word.

1.   Let's not <u>compound</u> the problem by arguing.   _____

2.   My mother put a hot <u>compress</u> on my forehead.   _____

3.   No jury would <u>convict</u> him.   _____

4.   June is a <u>convert</u> to vegetarianism.   _____

5.   I hope this pain will <u>decrease</u> over time.   _____

6.   I remember every little <u>detail</u>.   _____

7.   Promise you will never <u>desert</u> me.   _____

8.   I will <u>attribute</u> that to a statistical anomaly.   _____