

Stress Patterns in Multisyllabic Words

When a word has more than one stressed syllable, one is the primary stressed syllable, and another is the secondary, or slightly less stressed, syllable. Prefixes are usually the secondary stressed syllables. In the example below, the primary stressed syllable is underlined twice. The secondary stressed syllable is underlined once.

EXAMPLE: disproportionate

DIRECTIONS: Say each word to yourself. Underline the primary stressed syllable twice. Underline the secondary stressed syllable once.

entertainment

diabetic

catastrophic

misrepresentation

calibration

monumental

curiosity

phlebotomy

incandescent

derision

unbelievable

directly

multisyllabic

preposterous

estuary

connotation

