



NATIVE PRONUNCIATION TRICKS

SPEAKING LESSON & QUIZ



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I'd just like to begin this PDF/Lesson but reminding you all that you don't need to worry about 'sounding native', the fact that you're dedicating time and effort to learn English is more than enough and you shouldn't feel pressure to achieve 'native level'! Feel free to use these tricks as much or as little as you like on your English learning journey!

Noun-verb Pairs

There are many two-syllable words in English that can be pronounced in two different ways.

There are two categories for these word pairs:

- There are those which **keep the same general meaning**, but which change from noun to verb when the stress moves from the first to the second syllable; or
- Those which **change their meaning completely** – most of them change from noun to verb, but a few change to an adjective!

1

Decrease

Noun: DEcrease

- There has been a sharp **d**ecrease in homework submission.

Verb: deCREASE

- We don't want homework submissions to **d**ecrease any further.



2

Import

Noun: IMport

- Chocolate is an **im**port from Switzerland.

Verb: imPORT

- Switzerland hopes to **im**port more chocolate.

3

Increase

Noun: INcrease

- There has been an **in**crease in absences.

Verb: inCREASE

- We don't want the absences to **in**crease any further.

4

Insult

Noun: INsult

- What she said to me was an **in**sult

Verb: inSULT

- I hope she doesn't **in**sult me again.

5

Permit

Noun: PERmit

- She doesn't have a walking **per**mit.

Verb: perMIT

- I can't **per**mit you to walk here.

6

Produce

Noun: PROduce

- We sell lots of **pro**duce from our allotment.

Verb: proDUCE

- Our allotment produces lots of vegetables.



7 Reject

Noun: REject

- You can take the **re**ject pile of clothes to the tidy tip.

Verb: reJECT

- Unfortunately, the charity shop will **re**ject dirty clothes.

8 Suspect

Noun: SUSpect

- They took the **sus**pect into the jail cell.

Verb: suspECT

- They **susp**ect that she committed fraud.

Noun-verb or Noun-adjective (meaning changes)

Now let's take a look at those which change from noun to verb or noun to adjective, but have a different meaning.

1 Address

- I'll give you her ADDress. (where you live)
- She filmed a video to addRESS the rumours. (to speak about)

2 Conduct

- Your CONduct is not acceptable. (general behaviour)
- My dad was invited to conDUCT the local orchestra. (to lead or guide)



3

Console

- She spends all day on her gaming **CON**sole. (a set of controls)
- She was sad so he con**SOLE**d her. (comfort (someone) at a time of grief or disappointment)

4

Content

- The **CON**tent of his report was very complex. (what it contained)
- Relaxing in the sunshine makes me so con**TENT**. (happy, relaxed, and peaceful)

5

Default

- You can revert to the **DE**fault settings on your iPhone. (the settings something comes with)
- Our mortgage was denied for de**FAULT**ing on a loan. (did not make the required payments)

6

Entrance

- The **EN**trance is shut so go through the back door. (entryway)
- I was en**TRANCE**d by his singing voice. (hypnotised)

7

Object

- Certain **OB**jects are not allowed on planes. (item or thing)
- Would anyone ob**JECT** if I suggested we postpone this meeting? (complain)



8

Project

- The **PRO**ject is easy enough for two people. (a piece of work)
- Can you pro**JECT** your computer screen onto the white wall? (cast forward)

9

Subject

- What was your favourite **SUB**ject at primary school? (a branch of knowledge studied or taught in a school, college, or university)
- I was sub**JECT**ed to another lunch with my creepy boss yesterday. (forced to undergo)

Words with various endings

We're now going to have a look at some common suffixes! In words with these suffixes, the **stress** is usually going to be on the **syllable right before the suffix**. This applies to words of all syllable lengths.

1

able

- **DUR**able
- **LAUGH**able
- in**EFF**able

2

ial

- **SO**cial
- fi**NAN**cial

3

cian

- mu**SI**cian
- cli**NI**cian

WORD ENDINGS QUIZ

1 ery

- Would you like anything from the bakery?
- One of my favourite things about Seville is the scenery.

2 ian

- We booked tickets to go and see a comedian.
- At the show there were problems with the lights, they had to call a technician.

3 ible

- I thought it would be impossible to find a job that I love doing every day, but here we are!
- I had worked in previous jobs before, but I had terrible experiences.

4 ic

- She needs to check her blood sugar as she is a diabetic.
- The dog had a white stripe on its back, a characteristic it had taken from its mother.

5 ion

- Great Britain finished in fourth position at the Tokyo Olympics.
- The rainforest has a wild variety of vegetation.

**6 ia**

- The company was looking for someone to run their social media.
- He asked for a Victoria sponge cake on his birthday.

7 ient

- People tried to copy his recipe, but nobody knew the secret ingredient.
- The ancient Egyptians are known for their pharaohs, mummies, and pyramids.

8 ious

- Nobody would go near the mysterious house on the edge of town.
- When first looking for a job, I sent my CV to various pubs.

9 ish

- I really do love a full English breakfast!
- The teacher needed to punish the students for their bad behaviour, so he gave them detention.

10 osis

- The wife wished she could try hypnosis on her husband. Perhaps then he'd put the toilet seat down!
- Osmosis is a biological process.



ENDINGS ANSWERS

1**ery**

- BAkery
- SCEnery

2**ian**

- coMEdian
- techNIcian

3**ible**

- imPOSsible
- TERRible

4**ic**

- diaBEtic
- characteRIStic

5**ion**

- poSItion
- vegeTAtion

6**ia**

- MEdia
- VicTORia

7**ient**

- inGREdient
- ANcient

**8 ious**

- mySTERious
- VARious

9 ish

- ENglish
- PUnish

10 osis

- hypNOsis
- osMOsis

Words with various endings (stress on suffix)

Finally, let's look at words where the stress is nearly always placed on the suffix. I will follow the same format as above, take a look at the **example** and then try to pronounce the rest, the answers will be written below!

1 ade

- lemoNADE
- arCADE

Lets me know in the comments how you do with these!

2 ee

- Unfortunately we couldn't agree on a price.
- The company was able to guarantee next-day delivery!

**3 eer**

- I was having some problems with my boiler. so I called an engineer.
- They hired a puppeteer for the child's birthday party.

4 ese

- The Siamese is one of my favourite cat breeds.
- I have been trying to learn Japanese.

5 ette

- The children found an old cassette player.
- His dream car was a Corvette.

6 ique

- Her style was rather unique.
- He attended the gym to build his physique.

7 oon

- They had arranged a meeting for late afternoon.
- The children raced home from school so that they could catch their favourite cartoon.

ANSWERS

1 ade

- lemonNADE
- arCADE

2 ee

- aGREE
- guaranTEE



3

eer

- enginEER
- puppeTEER

4

ese

- SiamESE
- JapanESE

5

ette

- cassETTE
- CorvETTE

6

ique

- unIQUE
- physIQUE

7

oon

- afterNOON
- carTOON

The End