

Three Syllable Simple Words

5.1- Three syllable simple verbs:

Rule 1: If the final syllable contains a long vowel, a diphthong or ends with more than one consonant, the stress will fall on that syllable (the 3rd syllable or the last one).

Examples: intervene /,ɪntə'veɪn/, introduce /,ɪntrə'dju:s/, entertain /,entə'teɪn/, resurrect /,rezə'rekt/.

Rule 2: If the last syllable contains a short vowel and ends with no more than one consonant that syllable will be unstressed, and the stress falls on the preceding syllable (the 2nd from the end).

Examples: encounter /ɪn'kaʊntə(r)/, acknowledge /ək'nɒlɪdʒ/, establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/.

Activity 1

Transcribe the verbs and identify the rule governing stress placement in each one.

	The verbs	The transcription	The rule governing
1	Abandon		
2	Override		
3	Accredit		
4	Guarantee		
5	Deliver		
6	Volunteer		
7	Determine		
8	Undermine		
9	Develop		
10	Disappoint		
11	Imagine		
12	Interrupt		
13	disapprove		
14	Contradict		
15	Overdo		

5.2- Three syllable simple nouns

Rule 1: if the final syllable contains a short vowel or the diphthong / əʊ /, it will be unstressed. If the syllable preceding the final syllable contains a long vowel, a diphthong or more than one consonant, the central syllable will receive the stress.

Examples: Disaster /dɪ'zɑ:stə(r)/, professor /prə'fesə(r)/, potato /pə'teɪtəʊ/, tomorrow /tə'mɒrəʊ/.

Rule 2: if the final syllable contains a short vowel and the central one contains a short vowel and ends with no more than one consonant; the first syllable will receive the stress.

Examples: cinema /'sɪnəmə/, quantity /'kwɒntəti/, character /'kærəktə(r)/, synonym /'sɪnənɪm/.

Exception: most of the rules mentioned before show stress on the syllable containing a long vowel, a diphthong or ending with more than one consonant. However, if the final syllable contains a long vowel or end with more than one consonant, the stress can fall on the 1st syllable.

Examples: intellect /'ɪntələkt/, cataract /'kætərəkt/, yesterday /'kætərəkt/, substitute /'sʌbstɪtju:t/.

5.3- Three syllable simple adjectives

Adjectives need the same rules as nouns to determine stress placement in the three-syllable words.

Activity 2

Transcribe the following words and identify the rule governing stress placement in each one.

	The verbs	The transcription	The rule governing it
1	Accident		
2	Cathedral		
3	Embargo		
4	Innocent		
5	Insolent		
6	Opportune		
7	Mimosa		
8	Synopsis		
9	Tobacco		
10	Tomato		
11	Family		
12	Banana		
13	Africa		
14	Masculine		
15	Elegant		