

# Word Stress

## Compounds

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# What is a compound?

- A noun, an adjective or a verb, made of two or more words or parts of words, written as one or more words, or joined by a hyphen.
  - Eg.: bathroom, travel agent, dark-haired (OALD, 8th ed., 2009).



# Types of compounds: I

## ■ Noun

- Eg. 🛎 leather
- ✂️ wallet
- ✂️ credit card



## ■ Adjective

- Eg. 🛎 absent-
- ✂️ minded
- ✂️ time-consuming



# Type of Compounds: II

## ■ Single-stressed

- Eg.: ✂ grandfather  
✂ railway  
station



## ■ Double-stressed

- Eg. 🔔 winter  
✂ holidays  
🔔 chicken ✂ pie



# Single-stressed compounds

(Wells, 2006)

- Most English compounds are single-stressed (Teutonic tendency)
- Noun compounds: the most frequent
- Content word vs. lexical item
- Open and nested compounds
  - Eg.: ✂video game / ✂credit card bill

Monolithicity (Zenobi, 1987)

– Eg. ✂cupboard

- One-word compounds are single-stressed



# Noun phrase vs compound

- a  green 'house  
(noun phrase)

vs.

a 'greenhouse  
(compound)



# Scope of this presentation



- Compounds functioning as nouns  
= noun compounds
- [ Noun + noun ] noun compounds
- Single and double-stressed noun compounds

# Single-stressed Noun compounds Noun + Noun: I

- Noun 1 delimits the meaning of Noun 2, by stating 'what type of thing' it is.  
Eg. a ~~clock~~ alarm clock





# Single-stressed Noun compounds Noun + Noun: II

- The whole word denotes a device or instrument. Noun 2 is used for noun 1.
  - Eg. ✂pencil case (a case for pencils)



# Noun + noun: III

- Noun 2 is the doer of the action (it ends in -er-/or)

Eg.: ✂ dish washer

✂ shoe-maker



# Noun + noun: IV

- Words starting with an initial





– Eg.: ✂e-mail



✂T-shirt



# Double-stressed compounds

- They take two stresses in this order:
  - secondary
  - primary
- Eg.:  lemon  pie or  lemon  pie



# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: I

- Proper names

Eg.: 🔔 James ✂ Bond







🔔 Buckingham 'Palace



# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: III



- Names of institutions, hotels, restaurants...
  - Eg.: The  Marriott  Hotel
  - The  Northern Whig  Restaurant

# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: II

- Proper names of roads and public places
  - Eg.: 🛎 Craven 'Passage



St. 🛎 Paul's Ca'thedral





# Double-stressed compounds

## Exceptions (place)

- Street / building

Eg.: 'Orange Street



'Empire ✂ State  
🔔 Building





# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: IV

- Noun 1 names place or time.

Eg.: shop window

Sunday roast



# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: V

- Noun 1 names the material or ingredient

– Eg.  cotton  
 socks

 apple  pie



# Material/ingredient + noun Exceptions

- Juice: ✂ orange juice
- Cake: ✂ chocolate cake
- Bread: ✂ brown bread
- Water: ✂ mineral water
- Paper: ✂ carbon paper



# Double-stressed compounds

## Noun + noun: VI

### ■ Abbreviations

Eg.:  DV  D

 U  K



# -ing compounds (Careful!)

- -ing as gerund
  - Eg.: ✂ sleeping bag  
(bag *for* sleeping in)

vs.

- -ing as present participle
  - Eg.: 🔔 sleeping  
✂ child  
(child *that* is sleeping)



# Warning



- Irregularities and exceptions. Rules: not reliable
- Use a dictionary or ask a native speaker but ... don't always trust them!

# Anyway...

- Rules can help, so do your best to learn them...





and you'll succeed!





# Bibliography

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The end...

Thank you!

