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.:orderid: grandfather
  - raiway
  - 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\textit{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

 TextInputType

小姐姐

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 Cathedral
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

shop window

- Sunday roast

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

The end...

Thank you!