

# **SPECIFIC PRONUNCIATION PROBLEMS OF RUSSIAN STUDENTS**



# Word Stress

- **A. Stress on first syllable**

- **rule**

- example**

- Most **2-syllable nouns**      PRESent, EXport.,  
CHIna, Table
- Most **2-syllable adjectives**      PRESent, HAPpy  
CLEVer, SLENDER,

- **B. Stress on last syllable**

- **rule**

**example**

- Most **2-syllable verbs**

exPORT, deCIDE,  
beGIN



- **2-syllable words whose meaning and class change with a change in stress**

- **noun**

- **verb**

- PREsent

preSENT

- Export

exPORT

- CONTRact

contrACT

- OBject

obJECT

- **C. Stress on penultimate syllable  
(penultimate = second from end)**

- **rule**

- Words ending in **-ic**
- Words ending in **-sion**  
and **-tion**

- example**

GRAPHic, geoLOGic,  
geoGRAPHic  
teleVIsion  
reveLAtion

- **D. Stress on ante-penultimate syllable (ante-penultimate = third from end)**

- **rule**

- Words ending in **-cy,**

- **-ty, -phy** and **-gy**

- Words ending in **-al**

- **example**

deMOcracy, geOLOgy

dependaBILity,

phoTOgraphy

CRItical, geoLOGical

## ■ E. Compound words

### ■ rule

- For compound **nouns** – on the **first** part
- For compound **adjectives** – on the **second** part
- For compound **verbs** – on the **second** part

### example

BLACKbird,  
GREENhouse  
bad-TEMpered,  
old-FASHioned  
underSTAND,  
overFLOW



# Rhythm

- **Content words** (have the most stress):  
Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs
- **Function words** (are weaker and shorter):  
Auxiliary verbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions  
(but, not...), Determiners (the, some, each...), Possessive adjectives (my, your...)

- **Content words** are stressed more (pronounced louder and longer) than **functions words**.
- **When** are you **coming** to **dinner**?
- I have **never** **liked** the **color** **red**.
- **Motorcycles** can be **dangerous** to **drive** or **ride** on.

- **Stress Timing**

- English is a stressed timed language. The time it takes to say something depends on the number of stressed syllables, not the number of syllables.
- **Bob ate some corn.** (4 syl.)
- **Kenny** has **swam** to **France** and **back**. (8 syl.)
- The **Americans** are **buying** some **souvenirs** and **posters**. (15 syl.)

# Intonation

- **Intonation Patterns**
- **-Statements:**
- I **like** riding horses.
- **-Wh questions:**
- When do you go **riding**?
- **-Yes/no questions:**
- Do you ever **fall** off ?

- **-Commands:**
- Get off the horse **now**.
- **-Requests:**
- Can I go with you sometime?
- **-Choice questions:**
- Does she like **chicken** or **meat**?
- **-Tag questions:**
- Susan **ate**, didn't she?
- **-Giving lists:**
- Samuel likes **pizza**, **tacos**, **spaghetti**, **hamburgers**, and **hot** dogs.

If you don't move your voice **up**  
and **down**, you will sound

**b-o-r-in-g !!!**

# Consonants

- **th sounds**
- There are two pronunciations for **the th sounds**,
- **-voiced:**
- thin, think, tooth, something, thank
- Math and theology are worth thinking about to be wealthy and healthy.
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- **-voiceless:**

- the, them, rather, another, seethe
- Another father withered in the hot weather.
- That brother's mother and father smooth lathered leather.

- **How to pronounce /w/ and /v/ sounds:**

■ wet	vet
■ way	vane
■ weather	rave
■ between	believe

- Slow sweaty wombats wallow in wet watery swilling sewage.

- Conservation drives savvy investors to save their valuables in vaults.

- **How to pronounce the /r/ sound:**

red, bar, arrive, revere, room, ready

- Rowdy Brandy arrived in the room ready to rock and roll.

- **How to pronounce /h/ sound:**

- Hat, heaven, behold, ahead, hash

- Heaven has heaps of hot heads who have behaved hellishly.

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## ■ **How to pronounce ng sound**

Most of the time when you see the letters NG, you want to pronounce them as one sound only, the NG sound [ŋ]. Can you make this sound without a hard G [g] sound?

hung

spring

song

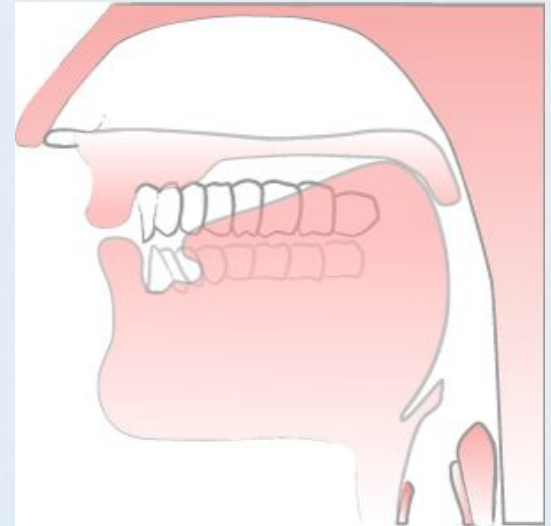
wing

laughing

expecting

remembering

swimming



# Vowels

- **How to pronounce the sound in were-work-worth-word-world**
- **ir** (bird), **er** (berg), **ur** (urge):
  - dirty                      clergy                      splurge
  - stirring                  submerge                  purge
- The eager orator's terse verses deserved the youngsters nervous laughter.

- **How to pronounce the sounds in**
- **bed – bad, men – man, send – sand...**
- Open your mouth a bit more to pronounce /æ/
- **apple, hamster, mask, automat, candle.**
- That fat cat sat on a black hat.
- Masked cattle and lambs ransacked the ranch in the valley.

- **How to pronounce the sounds in**
- **set – sit – seat, ship - sheep**

■ pen	pin	peenge
ten	tin	teen
peg	pig	peak
bell	bill	beal
cheque	chick	cheek

Everything in this fridge is fresh, sweetie.

**Thank you!**

**I**   
**English**