

LY & ER STRESS RULES IN ENGLISH

THE "LY/ER" RULE

THREE SYLLABLE WORDS ENDING IN "ER" AND "LY"

Words that have three syllables and end in "-er" or "-ly" usually have stress on the first syllable.

EXCEPTIONS

Prefixes typically do not carry the stress, so the rules won't apply if you see a prefix.

Example "re mem ber" The word ends in "er" BUT starts with a prefix "re" so the rule doesn't apply.

PREFIXES TO KNOW

A	BE
DE	DIS
RE	IN/IM
MIS	OVER
UN	OUT
EX	NON
PRE	UNI
TO	ANTI
EN/EM	SUB
MULTI	AUTO
BI	INTER
OVER	POLY
POST	SUB

Identify the suffix and then find the syllable to stress

BRO-ther-ly	CER-tain-ly
Be-GINN-er	BA-sic-ally
BY-stan-der	CAR-pen-ter
co-MMU-ter	CU-cum-ber
CU-rrent-ly	com-PU-ter
CU-sto-mer	con-SI-der
CY-lin-der	de-SIG-ner
EAR-nest-ly	con-SU-mer
FO-llow-er	FO-rest-er
de-VOUT-ly	GAR-de-ner
GE-neral-ly	re-CEI-ver
re-COR-der	HA-ppi-ly
HAR-ves-ter	HOPE-ful-ly
IN-stant-ly	IS-lan-der
LA-ven-der	LEC-tur-er
re-MEM-ber	LEI-sure-ly
LE-nient-ly	LI-teral-ly
MA-na-ger	MAR-ke-ter
re-POR-ter	MI-ni-ster
NA-tural-ly	O-pe-ner
OR-der-ly	re-TRIE-ver
OUT-si-der	PAR-tial-ly
PA-ssen-ger	PA-tient-ly
un-KIND-ly	PEN-sion-er
PER-fect-ly	un-JUST-ly
PRI-so-ner	PRU-dent-ly
re-VIEW-er	PUR-pos-ely
QUAR-ter-ly	QUI-et-ly
SA-lient-ly	SCHO-lar-ly
to-GE-ther	TRA-ve-ler
un-TIME-ly	VIR-tual-ly



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