

6 STRESS RULES IN

ENGLISH



RULE 1: THE INITIALS RULE

If the initials have two letters, both will have equal stress

BUT, if the initials have three letters, the stress will be placed on the final letter

RULE 2: THE ACRONYMS RULE

Acronyms are pronounced as a single word and follow the stress rules for nouns

AKA	ASAP /eisæp/ "EY SAP"	AWOL /eiwəl/ "EY WALL"
BA	BO	DIY
DNA	DNR	ESL
ETA	FAQ	FBI
FOMO /fomo/ "FO MO"		FYI
HR	ID	MA
MBA	MD	MIA
NASA /næsə/ "NAA SUH"		NATO /neɪdo/ "NAY DOE"
PDA	PHD	POV
PR	PS	RIP
TBA	TESL /tɛsəl/ "TEH SUL"	TMI
VIP	YOLO /jolo/ "YO LO"	

RULE 3: FRENCH ORIGIN WORDS RULE

Suffixes with: -aire -ee -que -sce -eur -eer -ese -ette -oo -ade -oon are stressed on the final syllable

ABSENTEE	ACQUIESCE	ADOPTEE
AFTERNOON	ARCADE	AUCTIONEER
BACHELORETTE	BALLOON	BILLIONAIRE
BLOCKADE	BOUTIQUE	BRUNETTE
CAREER	CARTOON	CASCADE
CASSETTE	CHAUFFEUR	CIGARETTE
COCOON	COMMANDEER	CONNOISSEUR
CONVALESCE	CORVETTE	CRITIQUE
CRUSADE	ENGINEER	ENTREPRENEUR
GAZETTE	GRANDEUR	GROTESQUE
KANGAROO	KITCHENETTE	LAGOON
MYSTIQUE	OPAQUE	PARADE
PICTURESQUE	PIONEER	QUESTIONNAIRE
REFEREE	REMINISCE	SERENADE
SHAMPOO	SILHOUETTE	

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EXCEPTIONS:

ACCOLADE
DECADE
OMELETTE
REINDEER

COFFEE
IGLOO
PALETTE
RENEGADE

COMMITTEE
MARMALADE
PEDIGREE
TOFFEE

RULE 4: "SELF" RULE

When a phrase includes "self/selves," the stress will be on the "self" portion of the word.

He fixed the plumbing issue all by him**self**

She cuts her hair her**self**

Did you do that by your**self**?

I'll go by my**self** today

They can complete it by them**selves**

We all told our**selves** it would work out okay, and it did!

It takes care of it**self**!

RULE 5: STREETS and ROADS RULES

When a phrase includes the words Street and Road:

The stress will occur on the actual name of the street or road, not the type of roadway.

RULE 6: Avenues and Drives, Circles and Courts RULES

When a phrase includes another type of roadway, the stress will occur on the type of roadway, not the name.

Birch **Court**
Fourth Road
Leery Road
Read Street
Winterview **Court**

Elm **Drive**
Greenway **Circle**
Plumb **Crescent**
Seaway **Drive**

Elm Street
Lakeside **Crescent**
Point **Avenue**
Sunset **Circle**



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