

4 Syllables and Stress

When Kimiko glanced back at her diary entry she realized she had made a spelling error in the second sentence. Can you find it?

Notice the word different. Did you find the error? Kimiko probably left out one "e" because the middle syllable in *different* is often not pronounced.

Dear Diary

Grade 7 is great! There's so much more freedom, and we rotate to different classrooms. I get to see my friends in the hallway even if they're not in my class.

I wish my locker was bigger, though. It's overflowing with notebooks, pencils, and notes from all my friends. My mirror fell off the door yesterday and smashed into a million pieces. I could've died!

Time to get ready for soccer.

Kimiko

concrete
content
contract
entrance
graduate
minute
moderate
proceeds
produce
project
record
refill
separate
subject
suspect

OTHER PATTERNS

*eighth
quarrel
Québec
question
*thoughts

Thinking about Words

1. Sort this list of words taken from the diary entry into three categories: two-syllable words, three-syllable words, and four-syllable words.

yesterday
mirror

hallway
overflowing

pieces
freedom

2. Do you say the word rotate with the stress on the first syllable or the second? Both pronunciations are correct.

The following words have been divided into syllables and appear as they would in a dictionary entry.

yes•ter•day

o•ver•flow•ing

Place a stress mark (´) over the syllable that receives the primary stress in each word. Consult a dictionary if you are unsure.

Word Pattern

In words containing more than one syllable, primary stress is usually placed on only one of the syllables.

* frequently misspelled word

Working with Words

1. All of the list words (excluding those under Other Patterns) can be pronounced two ways depending on which syllable is stressed. A different pronunciation can result not only in a change in vowel sounds, but in word meaning.

Write the list word that fits each pair of definitions that follow:

- a) moves forward; money obtained from a sale
- b) a point in time; very small or tiny
- c) facts or ideas stated; satisfy or please
- d) door or passageway; fill with joy
- e) fruit and vegetables; bring into existence

2. Match list words with each of the following shapes:



3. Unscramble the syllables in the box below to find three two-syllable and three three-syllable list words.

ate	u	a	rate	mød
rel	sep	quar	er	con
grad	tract	tion	ques	ate

4. In English, the letter **q** is almost always followed by **u**, as in **question**, **quarrel**, and **Québec**. Unlike the place name Québec, however, not all place names containing a **q** follow it with a **u**.

Match each of these place names with their geographical location. Have an atlas handy!

Qandahar	Iran
Qatar	China
Qiqihar	state on the Persian Gulf
Qom	Afghanistan

Writing and Revising

1. Each list word (excluding those in Other Patterns) has two meanings and parts of speech depending on which syllable is stressed. For each of the following list words, write a sentence using both meanings. For example, "With no more time left to research his topic, Ivan had to be **content** with the **content** of his report."

contract project record suspect

2. Many diary entries start with *Dear Diary* (see p. 13). But what if the situation were reversed? What if your diary wrote to you? Write an entry you might get from your diary.

3. Write an imaginary diary entry for one of the following topics (or make up one of your own).

- a) on the road with a rock group
- b) the perfect summer holiday
- c) at the training camp of a professional sports team
- d) meeting friends after school

4. Rewrite the following diary entry. Substitute the underlined words and phrases with appropriate list words to make the entry more concise.

Dear Diary:

I have a suspicion that the fraction of an hour I step through the opening of my house, I'll get some good news. Maybe my sister—the one who finished her course of study from college—will be home for a visit. Or my dad will say he has just gotten a written agreement for a new job. At any rate, I'll be very satisfied with counting the money I received from our yard sale.

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Notice that the word **eighth** has four consonants together. Here are some other words with unusual combinations of vowels and consonants:

- Egypt (ēˈjɪpt): a country in Africa
- miaow (mē ouˈ): the sound a cat makes
- euchre (yüˈkər): a card game for two to four players
- ouananiche (wäˈnə nishˈ): a species of Atlantic salmon native to Lake St. John

The Editing Desk

Nouns Nouns are words that name people, places, and things. Here are two common classes of nouns:

Common nouns: names of places and things that are not capitalized, such as dog, books, river, apartment

Proper nouns: names of specific people and places that are capitalized, such as Marc Garneau, British Columbia, Mackenzie River, Riverview Drive, the CN Tower

Writers, of course, use lots of nouns. In this passage from *Whooping Crane Adventure* by Max Braithwaite, the common nouns are underlined once, the proper nouns twice.

“It was four days after the dramatic rescue and Jeff still felt the thrill of the plane ride. The pilot had loaded the hitchhiker and his accomplice, the kids including Tony, and two whoopers [whooping cranes] into the plane and flown them back to the Gardner camp.”

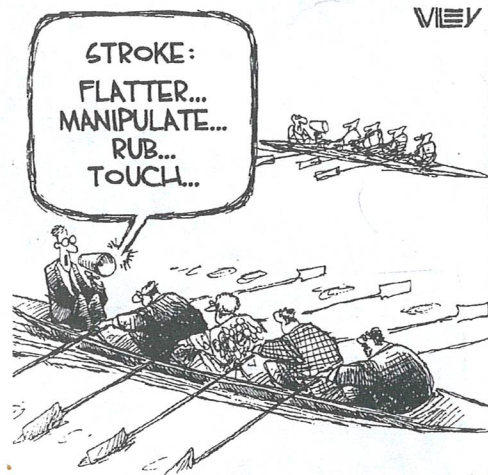
1. a) Write the list words that are nouns. Which list word is a proper noun?
b) Choose a paragraph from one of your written assignments. Circle all the nouns. Have you used any proper nouns?

2. Do you know these expressions? Fill in the missing common nouns to complete each one. The meaning of the expression is in parentheses.

- a) walking on _____ (very happy or pleased)
- b) the writing is on the _____ (obvious; clear)
- c) just the tip of the _____ (more complicated than it seems)
- d) the calm before the _____ (something terrible is about to happen)

3. A *thesaurus* is a book of synonyms (words that mean the same or nearly the same thing). When you write, you may want to use a thesaurus to find nouns that are more colourful or descriptive.

Rewrite the following passage, inserting more interesting nouns as you go along.



THE THESAURUS REGATTA

9-18
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It ended at eleven. We left the place and walked past the building. In a corner of the building, someone was standing under something. We couldn't see the person. Time to run down the street, we all decided!