

# STRESS AND INTONATION

## STRESS

- Stress is emphasis or force. It is pronouncing some (the correct) syllables with greater force. Sound come with force when more energy is used and vice versa. Stressed sounds and syllables are louder and longer than ~~and~~ unstressed ones. Therefore, the degree of force with which sound or a syllable or a word or a sentence is uttered is called as stress. However, stress on individual words is different than on sentences as pronouncing words in isolation and in context differ. Content words are stressed more than the structural words.

Accordingly, they are either primary or secondary stresses within the words or sentences.

Getting word stress right is important for our words to be understood by the listener.

While word stress is simply a part of the pronunciation of a word, sentence stress is connected to the meaning we want to express.

An example to make this clear is given below:—

Difference in sentence stress leads to difference in meaning, example -  
He is my uncle.

- He is my uncle. (not anyone else.)
- He is my uncle. (not anybody else's)
- He is is my uncle. (why, any doubt?)
- He is my uncle. (not father)