**PRONUNCIATION**

**Stress in two-syllable words**

Some words in English are both nouns and verbs. For example, *record* is a noun if you put stress on the first syllable and a verb if you put stress on the second syllable.

Examples:

*record contrast desert export object present produce protest rebel*

(Note: There is not always a change of stress in words that are both nouns and verbs. E.g. *answer, promise, travel, visit* have stress on the same syllable.)

**Task 1 Circle the word with a different stress pattern from the others.**

1 answer agree allow attract

2 middle minute mission mistake

3 compare correct copy collect

4 garden granny guitar grammar

5 complete common careful crazy

6 pronounce provide promise prefer

7 shampoo shoulder shower shopping

8 reason remove receive review

**Task 2 Read the sentences and decide what stress pattern the words in bold have.**

Example: I got my first **record (Oo)** as a **present** **(Oo)** when I was eleven.

1 You´ve **progressed** well this year but I´d like to see even more **progress**.

2 We **import** too much petrol and the country´s **export** figures are going down.

3 It started as a student **protest** but now the army has **rebelled** against the government.

4 In the **desert**, there is a big **contrast** between temperatures in the day and at night.

5 These companies **produce** household **objects** such as fridges and washing machines.

**Words that lose a syllable**

**In a few two-syllable words with stress on the second syllable, the first vowel is often left out in rapid speech so that the word is said with only one syllable.**

**Examples:**

I don´t b~~e~~lieve you.

It´s the p~~o~~lice.

What´s the c~~o~~rrect answer?

I s~~u~~ppose so.

**A few words lose their first syllable completely in rapid speech.**

**Examples:**

~~A~~bout five o´clock.

I bought it ~~be~~cause it´s rare.

I´ve invited everyone ~~ex~~cept Jack.

**Task 3 Read the sentences out loud, leaving out syllables of the words in bold where appropriate.**

1. I must be losing my **memory**.
2. He was dressed **formally**.
3. He supported her **loyally**.
4. I **suppose** not.
5. It´s our wedding **anniversary**.
6. The **police** arrived.
7. The **machinery** broke down.
8. It´s **technically** very advanced.
9. There´s a special **delivery** for you.
10. I´m taking cough **medicine**.
11. It was **geometrically** patterned.
12. **Perhaps** you´re right.
13. The play is **historically** accurate.
14. She goes to a **nursery**.

(Adapted from Hancock, M. *English Pronunciation in Use Intermediate*. CUP, 2003. Hewings, M. *English Pronunciation in Use Advanced.* CUP, 2007.)