

# Sentence Stress

answer /'ɑ:nsə/  
again /ə'geɪn/



The allocation of words with a voice in a sentence or in a phrase called phrasal stress.

- In Russian sentence the words are not allocated so sharply with phrasal stress and it falls almost on every word.

In comparison with English the Russian language makes an impression of a smoother one. Of course, in the Russian language there are words that can not be allocated with the stress, but there are not a lot of them.

We do not allocate, for example,

**the particles ЛИ, же, ВЕДЬ;**

**the unions И, НО** are usually unstressed;

**personal** and **possessive pronouns** and

**prepositions** are also often unstressed.

Compare:

I be`gan `telling her about the `incident, but she  
`didn`t under`stand `anything.

`Я `стал расс`казывать ей об `этом  
инци`денте, но `она `так ниче`го и `не  
поня`ла.

□ In English there is an alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables, which creates a certain rhythm of the English language. With a large number of polysyllabic words in the Russian language and with the free stress, the rhythm of Russian sentences is not so evident as in English.

If you pronounce the English sentences placing emphasis according to the laws of the Russian language, this English speech will sound like reading syllable by syllable. That is why it is necessary to know the features of the phrasal stress in the English language.

- In the English sentence the stressed parts of speech are the following:

**nouns**

The *ˈtable* is in the *ˈroom*.

**adjectives**

The picture is *ˈbeautiful*.

**numerals**

Tom is *eˈleven*.

**adverbs**

Helen speaks English *ˈwell*.

## notional verbs

I *want* to *go* to the river today.

## interrogative pronouns: what, where, when, why

*What* do you know about it? *When* will he come home?

*Why* do you look sad?

## demonstrative pronouns in the beginning of the sentence:

**this, that, these, those**

*This* is a book and *that* is a note-book. *These* books are on the desk and *those* ones are on the shelf.

- The unstressed parts of speech in the English sentence are:

**auxiliary verbs**

What *do* you do in the evening?

**modal verbs**

He *can* speak English very well.

**the verb to be**

This *is* a large house.



## prepositions

We go *to* the country *in* summer.

## particles

We want *to* see the new film.

## unions

I like this picture, *but* my brother likes that photo.

## articles

I have *a* beautiful toy. The toy is in *the* box.

## personal and possessive pronouns

*She* is at home, and *he* is in the garden. Give me *your* textbook, please.

□ **Auxiliary** and **modal verbs**, and also the verb **to be** can be stressed in the following cases:

**at the beginning of the general question**

`Is it big? `Do you like it? `Can you do it?

**The short answer to the general question**

Is it dark here? - Yes, it `is. Do you like it? - Yes, I `do. Can you do it? - Yes, I `can.

**in brief negative forms**

It `isn't on the table. I `don't like it. I `can't tell you about it.

**at the end of the sentences or syntagmas after unstressed words**

I do not know where he `is.

- But if before the unstressed word in the end of a sentence or a semantic group there is a stressed word, the unstressed word loses its accent:

I do not know where `Nick is.

I do not think `Kelly can.

## □ Note:

In **full negative forms** only a particle is stressed, the verb is unstressed:

It is *`not* on the table. I do *`not* like it.  
He can *`not* do it.

In English stress is indicated by the special mark <sup>˘</sup> that is placed before the stressed syllable.