



كلية : الاداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثانية

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية : الصوت

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : **Phonetics and Phonology: An Introduction**

اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة العربية: المقاطع الضعيفة والمشددة

اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة الإنكليزية : **Strong and Weak Syllables**

Strong and Weak Syllables

- One of the most noticeable features of English pronunciation is that some of its syllables are strong while many others are weak. In weak syllables, the vowel tends to be **shorter**, of lower intensity (**loudness**), and different in **quality**. For example, the word 'data' /deɪtə/ whose **second syllable** is **weak** and **shorter** than the first one. It is **less loud** as well.
- In a word like 'bottle' /'bɒt(ə)l/, the weak second syllable contains no vowel at all, but consists entirely of the consonant [l]. We call this a syllabic consonant.

Three Ways of Characterizing Strong and Weak Syllables

1. We could describe them partly in terms of **stress** (that strong syllables are **stressed** and weak ones are **unstressed**).
2. The strong syllable usually has one of **vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs** as its peak, but not **ə, i, u**.
3. The weak syllables are in the following vowels such as **ə, i, u** with no coda (**zero coda**).

The most important thing to note at present is that any **strong syllable** will have as **its peak** one of the vowel phonemes (or possibly a triphthong), but not **a, i, u**.

Where can we find weak syllables??

- **WEAK SYLLABLE**
- 1- At the **end of a word**, we may have a weak syllable ending with a **vowel** (with no coda). These vowels are:

- ə (schwa) Better /betə/ Centre /sentə/
- i Happy /hæpi/ Carry /kæri/ - a close front unrounded vowel
- u Thank you /θæŋk. ju/ - a close back rounded vowel
- We also find weak syllables in word-final position with a coda if the vowel is ə (schwa).
- For example: • Open /ɒpən/ • Sharpen /ʃɑ: pən/
- 3 Inside a word, we can find the above vowels acting as peaks without codas in weak syllables.
- Examples: • Photograph /fəʊtəgrɑ: f/ • Radio /reidiəʊ/

1. The vowel ə (schwa). We find this vowel in the following:

i) Spelt with 'a'; strong pronunciation would have a

- Attend /ə'tend/; barracks /'barəks/; character /'kærəktə/

- ii) Spelt with 'ar'; strong pronunciation would have **ɑ:**
 'particular' **pətɪkjələ** 'molar' **məʊlə**
 'monarchy' **mɒnəki**
- iii) Adjectival endings spelt 'ate'; strong pronunciation would have **er**
 'intimate' **ɪntɪmət** 'accurate' **ækjərət**
 'desolate' **desələt** (although there are exceptions to this:
 'private' is usually **praɪvɪt**)
- iv) Spelt with 'o'; strong pronunciation would have **ɒ** or **əʊ**
 'tomorrow' **təməʊrəʊ** 'potato' **pəteɪtəʊ**
 'carrot' **kærət**
- v) Spelt with 'or'; strong pronunciation would have **ɔ:**
 'forget' **fəget** 'ambassador' **æmbəsədə**
 'opportunity' **ɒpətjʊməti**
- vi) Spelt with 'e'; strong pronunciation would have **e**
 'settlement' **setlmənt** 'violet' **vəɪələt**
 'postmen' **pəʊstmən**
- vii) Spelt with 'er'; strong pronunciation would have **ɜ:**
 'perhaps' **pəhæps** 'stronger' **strɒŋgə**
 'superman' **sʊpəmæn**
- viii) Spelt with 'u'; strong pronunciation would have **ʌ**
 'Autumn' **ɔ:tem** 'support' **səpɔ:t**
 'halibut' **hælibət**

ix) Spelt with 'ough' (there are many pronunciations for the letter-sequence 'ough')

 'thorough' **θərə** 'borough' **bərə**

ix) Spelt with 'ou'; strong pronunciation might have **au**

 'gracious' **greɪfəs** 'callous' **kæləs**