

Contrastive Stress

Sample Lesson

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Using Sentence Stress

The sentence stress is usually on the last word of the sentence. Sentence stress means making the word longer and spoken with higher pitch.

My name is John Benner.

I'm from Iowa.

Try it

Say your own names with higher pitch and greater length on the last part of your name.

My name is _____.

I'm from _____.

Practice Sentence Stress

Final sentence stress works for most sentences in English. Say the underlined words with sentence stress.

The girl was at home.

It's really cold.

The book is on the table.

Try to be early.

5 + 4 = 9

2 + 3 = 5

Practice Sentence Stress

Give a sentence to describe the house.



De-stressing final words

- Sometimes, the last word is not stressed. It is pronounced very softly. Read the sentences.
 - She was there / but I didn't see her.
 - I can't go / but I'd like to.
 - I don't have a cat / but I want one.
 - I found a dollar / but then I lost it.

Contrastive stress

Sometimes, sentence stress is used to compare or contrast two or more items. Practice these sentences with contrastive stress on all words.

I like to DRIVE, not WALK.

Do you prefer COOKIES, CAKE, or ICE cream?

I don't like HER. I like HIM.

Contrast changes depending on context

Read the sentences with contrastive stress

Example $5 + \underline{4} = \underline{9}$ $5 + \underline{3} = \underline{8}$

1. $12 + 12 = 24$ $12 + 11 = 23$

2. $1 + 8 = 9$ $7 + 3 = 10$

3. $4 + 8 = 12$ $3 + 3 = 6$

Practicing Contrasts – Two pictures

Give a sentences to compare the two pictures



Language to compare and contrast

- Use correct language to compare and contrast
 - The *first* house is gray, *but* the *second* house is red.
 - The house *in the first picture* has _____, *but* the house *in the second picture* has _____.
 - *One* house is _____, *but the other* house is _____.
 - *This* house _____. *That* house _____.
 - The house *on the left* _____. The house *on the right* _____.

He ... but...

Try it!



the bear on the right... while...



Describe the picture with contrastive sentence stress



Ask each other questions

Contrasts are normal for choice questions and expressions of preferences. Example:

Which do you like better – VANILLA ice cream or CHOCOLATE ice cream?

Come up with your own questions

Which do you like better - _____ or
_____?