**PRONUNCIATION: FOCUS**

**Review.**

Circle the correct *word*:

* Stressed syllables: *longer/shorter*, *higher/lower*, and *softer/louder*
  + e.g. “**re**gister”
* “Unstressed syllables (sometimes *disappear/important* and pronounced *clearly/made into a /ə/* *sound*)
  + e.g. “diff**e**rent” “Seren**a**”
* Length = # of *stresses/syllables*

Fill in the blank:

* Content words (n\_\_\_, main verbs, a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, adverbs, or q\_\_\_\_\_ words) are *less/more important.*
  + e.g. “**What** are you **doing**?” “I have to **study** some **math**.”

**Focus.**

Listen and decide: which words are content words?

1. Is this your dog?
2. I am so hungry.
3. We’re going to be late.

**Rules.**

Usually, the content word is:

1. The last content word of the sentence.

e.g. “Big Sur is in **California**.”

2. Used for emphasis.

e.g. “Las Vegas is **very** expensive.”

3. Used to correct someone.

e.g. “The Grand Canyon is in **Arizona**, not **New Mexico**.”

4. Or disagree with someone.

e.g. “Antelope Canyon is cooler.” “Okay, but it’s **safer** to go to the Grand Canyon.”

**Practice**.

Listen to the audio. Decide which word is the focus word of the sentence underline it. Then, decide why (which rule applies?).

C: I want to go to Chicago.

D: Same! I want to see the Art Institute.

C: …Museums are so boring.

D: No, museums are interesting, and we should go.

C: Okay, but let’s go to Millennial Park too. It’s a beautiful park.

D: It’s crowded, but sure.

Debate whether it’s better to take a road trip to a famous city or park. Write 3 sentences. Give your opinion and a couple reasons. Mark **where** the focus is in your sentences and **why** (which rule).

1. The last content word of the sentence.

2. Used for emphasis.

3. Used to correct someone.

4. Or disagree with someone.

e.g. “A famous park is **better (#1)**. I like being **outdoors (#1)**, and it is more **fun (#1)**. Also, cities are **too** **(#2)** crowded!”

Then, record yourself reading your sentences, paying special attention to the focus you use. Upload here: <https://forms.gle/U6RxDWZc8tMiPgiC9>

**ANSWER KEY**

**Review.**

Circle the correct *word*:

* Stressed syllables: *longer/shorter*, *higher/lower*, and *softer/louder*
* “Unstressed syllables (sometimes *disappear/important* and pronounced *clearly/made into a /ə/* *sound*)
* Length = # of *stresses/syllables*

Fill in the blank:

* Content words (nouns, main verbs, adjectives, adverbs, or question words) are *less/more important.*

**Focus.**

Listen and decide: which words are content words?

1. Is this your dog?
2. I am so hungry.
3. We’re going to be late.

**Practice**.

Listen to the audio. Decide which word is the focus word of the sentence underline it. Then, decide why (which rule applies?).

C: I want to go to Chicago. #1

D: Same! I want to see the Art Institute. #1

C: …Museums are so boring. #2

D: No, museums are interesting, and we should go. #3/4

C: Okay, but let’s go to Millennial Park too. It’s a beautiful park. #1, #1

D: It’s crowded, but sure. #3/4