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Syllable

A syllable is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken or written word. Syllables usually contain a vowel and accompanying consonants. However both words 'chat' and light have only one syllable each. The number of times you hear a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) in a word is equal to the number of syllables a word has.

In this way a unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word is called syllable. For example there are two syllables in water and three in inferno.

Stress

Stress is a vital element in correct pronunciation and a great attention to it is essential.

Describing the importance of stress P. Christopherson says

"A characteristic feature of English as compared with many African language is the use of stress."

Stress means emphasis. If we make a sound with more energy, the

Sound will come out with force. If we make a sound with less energy, the sound will come out with less force. This indicates that there are degrees of stress.

Intonation

The rise and fall of pitch in voice is intonation. In other words, intonation is the variation in pitch. It is done by slacking or tightening our vocal-cords and the sound. In pronunciation intonation is very important. Just a change of pitch can change the meaning. Explaining the importance of intonation A. W. Frisby points out,

"Much of the meaning of the spoken language is conveyed by the tune to which it is said."

Rhythm

Rhythm is the musical aspect of language and makes pronunciations more appealing than it would otherwise be. According to the Oxford Dictionary, "Rhythm is the metrical effect quantity produced in verse, prose, music or motion by the relations in quantity, stress, time or energy between the syllables, words, notes or movements that succeed each other."