

# The Most Important Word

## A Pronunciation Activity

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

This activity is a supplement to the pronunciation activity (4. “How to say it”) in *Spectrum* Book One, page 53. In this activity, students will work on improving their pronunciation through recognizing and emphasizing the most important word in a sentence.

Explain to students that each sentence has one important word, depending on the meaning of the sentence. Tell them that important words are said with a stronger voice than are the other words in the sentence. Tell them that the voice usually goes up or down when saying the most important word.

Read the following sentences, emphasizing the “most important” words in bold. Ask students to identify the most important word in each sentence. Give students a chance to practice repeating these sentences after you.

1. Where do you **work**?
2. What do you **do**?
3. Is he a **doctor**?
4. Is she a **lawyer**?

Make one copy of the following worksheet for each student. Tell students to follow the directions on the worksheet. Remind them to look at both the questions and the answers to figure out which is the most important word in each sentence.

When students have completed the task, refer to the answer key as you read the conversations on the worksheet out loud, emphasizing the most important words. Have students repeat the conversations after you.

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## Student Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the most important word in each sentence. Then practice saying the conversations with a partner. Remember that important words are strong and your voice goes up or down when saying them.

A: What do you do?

B: I'm an actress.

A: Oh, that's interesting.

A: Do you live alone?

B: No, I live with my family.

A: Does Maggie work at Brooklyn Hospital?

B: Yes, she works in the lab.

A: Where do you live?

B: I live on Main Street.

A: Does Mark work in a hospital?

B: No, Mark works in an office.

A: Is he a lawyer?

B: No, he's an accountant.

A: Do you like coffee?

B: No, I like tea.

A: Are you going on Friday?

B: No, I'm going on Saturday.

# The Most Important Word Answer Key

(the most important words are in bold)

A: What do you **do**?

B: I'm an **actress**.

A: Oh, **that's** interesting.

A: Do you live **alone**?

B: No, I live with my **family**.

A: Does Maggie work at **Brooklyn Hospital**?

B: Yes, she works in the **lab**.

A: Where do you **live**?

B: I live on **Main Street**.

A: Does Mark work in a **hospital**?

B: No, Mark works in an **office**.

A: Is he a **lawyer**?

B: No, he's an **accountant**.

A: Do you like **coffee**?

B: No, I like **tea**.

A: Are you going on **Friday**?

B: No, I'm going on **Saturday**.