## 10 Under Stress



Look at this extract from the **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** and focus on the pronunciation of the three related words. Notice how this mark () is used to show that the stress falls on the following syllable.

- Where does the stress fall on the words **democracy**, **democrat**, and **democratic**?
- What do n, adj, and v mean?
- Why is there a dollar sign before the second set of phonetics at **democracy**? What do you think it means?

| s -,moobela-/ n [U]  |
|--|
| de-moc ra cy   MI (/dr/mekrasi 8 dr/mu:// ) plural   |
| democracies  1 [U] a system of government in which every citizen in  |
| the country can vote to elect its government officials: a  |
| return to democracy after 16 years of military rule  |
| 2 (C) a country that has a government which has been   |
| elected by the people of the country: a parliamentary  |
| democracy   Western democracies  |
| 3 [U] a situation or system in which everyone is equal<br>and has the right to vote, make decisions etc; → demo- |
| cratic: democracy within the trade unions  |
| democrat /demokrat/ n [G] someone who believes<br>in democracy or works achieve it                               |
| Dem-o-crat n [C] a member or supporter of the  |
| Democratic Party of the US   |
| dem-o-crat-ic Wi /,dema'knetik+/ad/  |
| 1 controlled by representatives who are elected by the   |
| people of a country; a democratic government   the   |
| role of the media in the democratic process  |

**A.** Look at the words in the table below. Where does the stress fall? Underline the correct syllable, paying attention to whether the word is a noun or a verb. The first one has been done for you.

| Word            | Word type |
|-----------------|-----------|
| <u>Sus</u> pect | Noun      |
| Suspect         | Verb      |
| Export          | Noun      |
| Export          | Verb      |
| Permit          | Noun      |
| Permit          | Verb      |

**B.** Now look at the words in the next table. This time, the stress has been marked for you. Decide what word type (noun or verb) each word belongs to, and write it in the right-hand column. The first one has been done for you. What do you notice about the stress patterns in these noun and verb pairs?

| Word             | Word type |
|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Con</b> trast | Noun      |
| Con <u>trast</u> |           |
| Ob <b>ject</b>   |           |
| <b>Ob</b> ject   |           |
| <b>Re</b> bel    |           |
| Re <b>bel</b>    |           |

To hear all the words in the **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** pronounced in both British and American, just click on the loudspeaker icon on your CD-ROM. You can record your own voice and listen back to test your own pronunciation too!



# **Teacher's Notes**

## 10 Under Stress

Time: 10 minutes

### Aims:

■ To introduce students to the key information about pronunciation provided in the dictionary.

- To explain the changing stress patterns of verb/noun pairs.
- Focus on the dictionary extracts and explain how stress is marked. For example: de<u>mo</u>cracy (stress on the second syllable), demo<u>cra</u>tic (third syllable), and de<u>mo</u>cratize (second syllable).
- Check students understand that n, adj, and v indicate that a word belongs to the word type noun, adjective, or verb.
- 3. The \$ sign precedes American pronunciation.
- In exercise A students should look up the words and find out where the stress falls. Point out that nouns and corresponding verbs are often pronounced differently.
- In exercise B, students are shown the correct stress pattern but must decide what word type it is, using their dictionary.
- **6.** Finally, ask what conclusions they can draw about changing stress patterns. Verbs are often stressed on their second syllable but the corresponding noun is often stressed on the first syllable.

#### Answers:

| A.              |      | B.                    |      |
|-----------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| <u>Sus</u> pect | Noun | <b>Con</b> trast      | Noun |
| Sus <b>pect</b> | Verb | Con <u>trast</u>      | Verb |
| <b>Ex</b> port  | Noun | Ob <u>ject</u>        | Verb |
| Ex <u>port</u>  | Verb | <u><b>Ob</b>j</u> ect | Noun |
| <b>Per</b> mit  | Noun | <b>Re</b> bel         | Noun |
| Per <u>mit</u>  | Verb | Re <b>bel</b>         | Verb |