Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

WHY DO WE STILL USE PAPER?

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Objectives: Learn about and practice your intonation and stress, reading comprehension and new vocabulary. Debate and practice expressing your opinion

Activity 1 : With a partner, read and answer the following questions

1 Do you like to read the newspaper?
2 How often do you go to the library? If you don't go now did you used to go in the past?
3 Does your family like to read books and if so do you read on an e-reader or use traditional books?
4 What was the last book you read?
5 How long did it take you to read it?
6 When is your favourite time to read and what is your favaourite type of book?



Activity 2 : With a partner, discuss the following key elements that lead to proper intonation in English. *(Please read and prepare this activity at home)*

- **Tonic stress**
- **Emphatic stress**
- **Contrastive stress**
- **New information stress**

Tonic Stress

Tonic stress refers to the syllable in a word which receives the most stress in an intonation unit. An intonation unit has one tonic stress. It's important to remember that a sentence can have more than one intonation unit, and therefore have more than one tonic stress. Here are some examples of intonation units with the tonic stress bolded.

He's **wai**ting
He's **wa**iting / for his **friend**
He's **wa**iting / for his friend / at the **station**.

Generally, the final tonic stress in a sentence receives the most stress. In the above example, 'station' receives the strongest stress.

Emphatic Stress

If you decide to emphasize something, you can change the stress from the principal noun to another content word such as an adjective (big, difficult, etc.), intensifier (very, extremely, etc.) This emphasis calls attention to the extraordinary nature of what you want to emphasize.

For example:

That was a difficult test. - Standard statement
That was a **difficult** test. - Emphasizes how difficult the test was

There are a number of adverbs and modifiers which tend to be used to emphasize in sentences that receive emphatic stress.

Extremely / Terribly / Completely / Utterly / Especially

Questions:

1. Can you think of some more words that can be used to emphasize the sentence?
2. With a partner create some example sentences with these words

Contrastive Stress

Contrastive stress is used to point out the difference between one object and another. Contrastive stress tends to be used with determiners such as 'this, that, these and those'.



For example:

I think I prefer **this** color.
Do you want **these** or **those** curtains?

Contrastive stress is also used to bring out a given word in a sentence which will also slightly change the meaning.

* **He** came to the party yesterday. (It was he, not someone else.)
* He **walked** to the party yesterday. (He walked rather than drove.)
* He came to the **party** yesterday. (It was a party not a meeting or something else.)
* He came to the party **yesterday**. (It was yesterday not two weeks ago or some other time.)

New Information Stress

When asked a question, the requested information is naturally stressed more strongly.

For example:
Where are you from? - I come from **Seattle**, in the USA.
What do you want to do? - I want to go **bowling**.
When does class begin? - The class begins at **nine** o'clock.

Use these various types of stress to help improve your pronunciation and understandability.

By Kenneth Beare

Activity 3: As a class read the following passage using some of the intonation examples explained. Who can identify which types of stress were used by each person?

Why We Still Use Paper

by **Dmitry**

With the advent of personal computers we were promised paperless offices. No need to print anything out or jot things down — we have monitors for displaying information and many gadgets and devices for recording things in or out of our home/office. The internet also allows us to store data in the cloud. Digital information is harder to lose, misplace or damage. It can be accessed wherever you are. Yet we still write notes on paper and print out articles to read.
The question is… why?
The problem lies not in the digital media itself — how it's processed or stored, or any other of its qualities. The problem lies in how we consume it and interact with it. The problem is the interface. Paper is just much more usable than a computer monitor. You can grab a piece of paper in about two seconds and start writing whatever you want. You can draw any diagrams, shapes, charts, pictures — there is little restriction. Paper is also easy to hold and look at — it's mobile, light and doesn't tire your eyes like that bright LCD.

On contrast, computer monitors are heavy, fixed and glare a bright light in your eyes that can easily tire. Input methods are limited. Typing on the keyboard is easy, but if you want to draw pictures — well… you could grab a graphics tablet, but that's not as simple as just sketching things on paper. Sure, there are tablet laptops out there with touch screens you can draw on, but they're not very accurate either and are definitely bulkier than paper. To save your notes you need to work with the file system. A piece of paper you can just fold and put in your pocket or file in a drawer (although the organization/retrieval is usually simpler on a computer).

Output.
Amazon has started the real transition from paper to digital a year ago when they released their Kindle reader. Yes, other eBook readers have existed previously, but they never really got much attention. Amazon offered not only a reader, but a library of books and an easy way to get them. I believe the Kindle is the first real step towards making a device that will simplify the consumption of digital information and make it as usable, if not more, than paper.

The challenge Amazon faces is to detach the old 'eBook' association, and sell the device as a real digital book. eBook readers were clunky old devices that didn't compare well in the usability department to books. What the world needs aren't 'eBook' readers — but 'book' readers. Thin, light devices that instantly turn on and display all your books or documents on a high resolution screen. The real feat to accomplish here is to replace paper as the preferred medium for consumption of information.

Comprehension questions:

1 What does the term 'jot down' mean in this text?
2 What are the advantages of using paper?
3 What are the disadvantages of using a computer?
4 Which device could reduce the use of paper?
5 What is the current preferred medium?

Activity 4: Read the following information and with a different partner, try to think of some commonly used words and where the stress lies in those words

Word stress.
English native speakers STRESS the important words and GLIDE OVER the lesson important words – this affects their INTONATION.
Regarding WORD STRESS – Let's read the information about which part of words to stress.
Word Stress
All words of more than one syllable have what is called word stress. This means that at least one of the syllables is l o n g e r and louder than the other syllables. In the following examples, stressed syllables are in capital letters:

PHOtograph / phoTOgraphy / photoGRAphic
PENcil comMITtee volunTEER
MARyland soCIety inforMAtion

In many cases, word stress must simply be learned as new volcabulary is acquired. However, there are several rules for word stress which can make it easier to deal with.

- Compound Nouns:

bluebird
blackboard
notebook
bookstore
toothbrush
keyboard

Question: Can you think of some more examples of compound nouns?
In each of these examples, the first part of the compound gets the stress.

- Noun+Noun Compounds (2-word compound nouns)

air conditioner
computer programmer
nail polish
french fry
Geiger counter
doctor's office

- Phrasal Verbs versus Compound Nouns derived from phrasals
Identify which words are nouns and which are phrasal verbs

let down letdown
shut out shutout
print out printout
turn off turnoff
take over takeover

In phrasal verbs, the preposition gets the word stress. If they have a noun counterpart, however, it gets the stress on the first part.

- **Homographs**
Homographs are words which are written the same way but which have different pronunciation. In English, there are many words which have the same spelling, but whose part of speech changes with the word stress. The vowel sounds change depending on whether they are stressed or unstressed.

VERB NOUN

record record
progress progress
present present
permit permit

Activity 5: Team challenge

In teams, think of some more examples of Homographs. Tell the other team one pronunciation and they have to guess the second. See who can think of the most!

Activity 6: You and your teacher will take turns reading the rest of the article. When you listen to each paragraph underline the stressed words and then read out the identical paragraph using the same stress patterns.

Input.

That's consumption however — input is another story. I think touch screens are essential in devices like these. Flicking pages shouldn't be done using buttons — you should literally be able to swipe your fingers over the screen and have the pages turn. Of course, now that the information sits in a digital format, you don't actually need pages anyway.
Sketching things is still difficult with current technologies. It's much easier to do a quick sketch on a piece of paper or draw a diagram on a whiteboard than to try to do the the same on your computer. There no way to just pick up a pen and draw on the screen. Well… in some cases there is, but I've not seen touch screen technology yet that's as accurate or simple as a pen on paper.

The future.

I think now is the time for a really good touch screen tablet. Something you can use to read all of your books, view all your documents and browse all your photos. Something light and thin that's not attached to your desk that you can take anywhere with you like a small book. Something with a usable interface that lets you touch the screen to navigate your information. And finally, something which lets you easily input data and draw accurately on the screen.
We're not that far off actually. Products like the Kindle and the iPhone are getting us very close to that reality. A large, thin iPhone-like tablet, with a display that's easy on your eyes (similar to Kindle) would in my opinion be a device that would replace the need for paper, and I'm really looking forward to seeing this one day; hopefully soon.
If you look back in history, ancient civilizations used to carve letters on stone and clay. This seems very antiquated today. But look at where we really are. We're burning letters on thin sheets of processed wood. Books really are just thick chunks of wood. Whole libraries are needed to house them. That doesn't seem like much of an advancement to me.
The real change will happen when the library turns into a server room, and access to all of its books will be available on a light and usable touch tablet. That day will be the beginning of the end for paper.

Comprehension Questions: Now let's see if you understood the article.

1 Why did people think we would not use paper any more?
2 Why do people still use paper?
3 What is the Kindle reader and who released it, when did they release it?
4 Why is the Kindle reader better than other e readers?
5 What is the problem with input as far as replacing paper goes?
6 What does history teach us about paper use?
7 What does the future hold for paper use?

Activity 7: Class debate
In two teams, you will debate FOR and AGAINST the use of technology over the use of Paper

Using the following expressions as an example make sure that you pay attention to your intonation and stress when making your arguement:

- **In my opinion...**
- **I agree with your point but...**
- **I don't think that's correct...**
- **You have a good point but...**
- **I totally disagree with you...**
- **There is nothing to suggest that...**
- **The is completely incorrect...**



