

Phrasal Stress – Written Exercises

Exercise 1. Paraphrase each of the following sentences without prosodic ambiguity

1. I didn't say we should kill him. =
2. I **didn't** say we should kill him. =
3. I didn't **say** we should kill him. =
4. I didn't say **we** should kill him. =
5. I didn't say we **should** kill him. =
6. I didn't say we should **kill** him. =
7. I didn't say we should kill **him**. =

Exercise 2. Underling the default, or “natural” stress of in the following dialogue.

Ben: Honey, I'm home!

Maria: Hi! How are you? How was your day at work?

Ben: It was great! I got a promotion! I'll have more responsibilities in the office, but the best news is that I'll have more money at the end of each month.

Maria: That's great! Congratulations! I'm really happy.

Ben: Unfortunately, I have to go to a conference this weekend so I won't be able to go to dinner with your parents this Friday. Sorry to let you down.

Maria: You're sorry? You're sorry?!?! I'm afraid “sorry” isn't good enough. I've already told them you're going, Ben!

Ben: I know, I know. And I am sorry about it. But as long as you have the chance to see them it's okay, right?

Maria: Fine. But we're going to dinner with them next Friday. No excuses.

Exercise 3. Match the response on the right with the dialogue on the left

<p>A. Where did you get these flowers from? The cemetery?</p> <p>B. Yes....</p> <p>A. You weren't supposed to steal them! _____</p>	<p>1. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. Here are the flowers Bob asked me to get.</p> <p>B. Eh? Bob didn't say anything, _____</p>	<p>2. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. Why do these roses have your mother's name on them?</p> <p>B. I got them for my mother, just like you asked.</p> <p>A. In what world would I ask you to buy your mother flowers on our anniversary? _____</p>	<p>3. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p> <p>4. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. John, why are there yellow roses on the table? _____</p>	<p>5. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. Oh, lilies, they're beautiful, but _____</p>	<p>6. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. I was kind of busy today, so my secretary did me the favour of ordering you the flowers you wanted.</p> <p>B. What?! _____ Why do I want roses from your secretary?</p>	<p>7. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. Listen, I know a single rose is supposed to be very romantic, but _____</p>	<p>8. I asked you to buy me a bunch of white roses.</p>
<p>A. Susie, you're always bossing me around. Ordering me to buy you flowers is the last straw.</p> <p>B. Fred, honestly, I don't understand what you're talking about. _____, not order!</p>	

Exercise 1

Put a mark above stress syllables, put a line through reduced syllables, leave unstressed but unreduced syllables without a mark.

E.g.: bió~~l~~əg y

police

courageous

biography

decision

photography

application

yellow

jumping

thermometer

again

simplicity

happy

contentious

terrible

Exercise 2

For English consonants, there are at least 7 places of articulation

bilabial, labiodental, dental, alveolar, palatal, velar, glottal

With your neighbour,
what are the distinctive features of the following phonemes? (Don't forget voice!)

m vs. n

k vs. g

s vs. f

p vs. k

v vs. ʒ

e.g.: ʃ vs. f

ʃ = [+ alveolar]

f = [+ labiodental]

