**English Pronunciation Podcast 18—Syllable Stress in Words of 3 or More Syllables (Part II):** This podcast continues to teach you how to find the stress in words which have three or more syllables.

I recommend that you listen to podcast #14 and 15, before using this one, if you haven't already.

In last week's podcast, we learned about a group of suffixes which do not affect the stress of the root word. This week were going to learn some of the suffixes which have a special effect on the root word. We're going to learn some of the suffixes which move or shift the stress of the root word.

**Example:**

Photograph, photography and photographic all contain the same root- photograph, and yet each of them is different in terms of where the stress falls.

**Pho**tograph     pho**to**graphy    phot**ograp**hic

Why is this?

The reason the stress is moving is due to the suffix of each word. There are certain suffixes which will determine where the stress falls.

Whenever you see the suffix, graphy the stress will fall right before the suffix, one syllable before.

Example: ge**o**graphy

Whenever you see the suffix ic the stress will fall immediately before the suffix.

Example: eco**no**mic

**Here are some important suffixes for which the stress falls immediately before the suffix:**

***cial, tion and ic***

**Exercise**: **Listen and repeat the following suffixes and words. Pay careful attention to syllable stress, making the vowel long and the pitch higher on the stressed syllable right before the suffix.**

**suffix: cial**

fi**nan**cial            
com**mer**cial          
arti**fi**cial

**Suffix: tion**

infor**ma**tion           
in**fla**tion            
assass**in**ation

**Suffix: ic**

e**lec**tric              
fan**tas**tic           
eco**no**mic

**Exercise: Listen and repeat the following pairs of words. The first word is the root form, the second is the variation with the suffix and then there is a sentence which uses both forms. Pay careful attention to the shift in syllable stress in each form.**

**root             root+suffix**

**fi**nance     fi**nan**cial  
He learned a lot about **fi**nance reading the fi**nan**cial times.

**root                root+suffix**

**com**merce       com**mer**cial  
**Com**merce is growing in the com**mer**cial district.

**root                root+suffix**

in**form**     infor**ma**tion

We were in**for**med that the infor**ma**tion was not correct.

**root             root+suffix**

as**sa**ssin       assass**in**ation  
Several as**sa**ssins were involved in the assass**in**ation.

**root               root+suffix**

**fan**tasy         fan**tas**tic  
That **fan**tasy writer is fan**tas**tic.

**root               root+suffix**

e**co**nomy    eco**no**mic

The e**co**nomy follows certain rules of eco**no**mics.

There are many more suffixes which affect the stress of a word. There are suffixes for which the stress falls one syllable before the suffix, suffixes for which the stress falls two syllables before the suffix, and suffixes for which the stress falls on the suffix.