**English Pronunciation Podcast 19—Syllable Stress in Words of 3 or More Syllables (Part III):** This podcast teaches you another useful rule for finding the stress in words which have three or more syllables.

In this week’s podcast, we're going to continue learn how to determine which syllable of a word is stressed. Often times, students aren't sure which syllable to stress when they see a long word with three or more syllables.

As we started to discuss in last week's podcast, if you have a long word of three or more syllables and you want to know where the stress is, you have to look at *the suffix* of the word. *The suffix is the word ending*. The suffix is a signal which will tell you which syllable to stress in the word.

In last week's podcast, we learned about some suffixes for which the stress falls immediately before the suffix. This week were going to look at another group of suffixes. We're going to look at words such as:

socialize

Socialize has three syllables. It ends in the suffix ***ize***.

**Rule: Whenever you see the suffix *ize*, count back two syllables and you'll find the syllable stress.**

Stress fall on <so> , which is *two syllables* *before* the suffix.

**so**     cial     ize

**The focus of today's lesson is:**

* to learn and practice the suffixes for which the stress falls *two syllables before* the suffix :

**Suffixes for which the stress falls two syllables before the suffix:**

***ize, ary* and *ate***

**Exercise**: **Listen and repeat the following words containing the suffix *ize*.  
Pay careful attention to syllable stress; stress falls two syllables before the suffix.**

**suffix: *ize***

**rec**ognize        **re**c ogn ize   
**fan**tasize        **fan** tas ize  
**so**cialize           so cial ize  
re**or**ganize       re **or** gan ize

Notice how it didn't matter how many syllables were in the word. We're not counting the number of syllables. We're looking at the suffix which is the signal that tells us the stress falls two syllables before it.

**Exercise**: **Listen and repeat the following words containing the suffix *ary.*  
Pay careful attention to syllable stress;, stress falls two syllables before the suffix.**

**Suffix: *ary***

**sec**retary     **sec**ret  ary     
**le**gendary            **le**gend  ary   
con**tem**porary       con  **tem**por  ary.

**Suffix: *ate***\*

\* *ate* as a verb is pronounced /eIt/. As an adjective or noun, it's pronounced /It/. Today's podcast we're going to focus on using *ate* as a verb, pronounced /eit/.

**Exercise**: **Listen and repeat the following verbs containing the suffix *ate.*  
Pay careful attention to syllable stress; stress falls two syllables before the suffix.**

**ac**tivate           **ac**tiv  ate         
**o**perate           **o**  per  ate    
e**xa**ggerate     e  **xa**  gger  ate    
in**ves**tigate     in  **ves**  tig  ate

It's always a good idea to use new words and sounds in sentences.

**Exercise: Listen and repeat the following sentences, paying careful attention to syllable stress.**

I have to **ac**tivate my credit card.

I didn't r**e**cognize him at first.

That singer is **le**gendary in his country.

In addition to using suffixes as signals for stress, you can also learn syllable stress just through memorization.

If you can memorize the stress of a word just by memorizing *the rhythm, the feel of the word*, ***like it's music***, that's good too!

**Exercise : Make a list of words which have the same suffix. For example: <*ize*>  
Then repeat them over and over, getting into a rhythm, almost like your singing or rapping:**

**re**cognize... **so**cialize... **pe**nalize.... **syn**thesize... **fan**tasize...  
By repeating them, you begin to memorize the stress pattern for the suffix *ize.*