

Learner (print) dictionaries usually provide the phonemic transcription of all headwords, mark word stress, and indicate differences in pronunciation across language varieties.

The activities in this chapter are designed to work with print dictionaries and are purposely low-tech but they can all be used with CD-ROM dictionaries, and several have tips on using CD-ROMs.

CD-ROM dictionaries differ quite a bit in terms of how they deal with pronunciation. Most now have a facility for students to record their own pronunciations and compare theirs with the model. (Activities using this facility have not been included because the focus here is on classroom activities, not on self-access ones.)

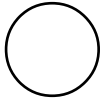
4.1 Syllables and stress

Aim	To practise using the dictionary to identify syllable breaks and word stress
Focus	Syllables and word stress
Level	Elementary
Time	25 minutes
Preparation	Prepare lists of words or use the ones in Box 33 (these are all food related). To create a topic list quickly and easily, use the picture pages in a print dictionary or the search facility on the CD-ROM. You may want to give each student a master list of all the words to make notes in the feedback stage. Check the pronunciation conventions used in the dictionary you are using.

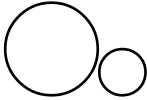
Procedure

- 1 Write a few words from your topic area on the board. For example, *breakfast*, *lunch* and *dinner*. Ask students to use their dictionaries to find out how many syllables the words have and where the stress is in each word.
- 2 Draw stress patterns on the board and ask students where you should put each of the words. For example:

Dictionary Activities



lunch



breakfast
dinner

- 3 Put students into groups. Assign a set of words to each group. Ask them to use their dictionaries to mark the syllable breaks and put the words under the correct stress patterns.
- 4 Ask groups to go to the board and present their results. Ask the whole class to say each word as they present its stress.

Box 33

Mark the syllable breaks and put the words under the correct stress patterns.

Food

biscuits
banana
butter
cereal
honey
pasta
pizza
salad
sandwich
vegetable

yoghurt
apple
cauliflower
coconut
grapefruit
lemon
melon
orange
pineapple
strawberry

watermelon
carrot
celery
cucumber
lettuce
onion
potato
sweetcorn
tomato
cabbage

