

APPEDIX - F

Components of Speech –

Pronouncing each sound correctly is not sufficient. When we speak, we do not speak in single word but in groups of words spoken continuously. This is called stream of speech. It includes :

1. Stress
2. Rhythm
3. Intonation
4. Fluency,
5. Pause.

Stress –

Stress is a vital element in correct pronunciation and a great attention to it is essential.

According to P. Christopherson, ‘A characteristic feature of English compared with many African languages and Russian languages are the use of stress’.

Stress means emphasis. If we make a sound with more energy the sound will come out with force. If we make a sound with less energy, the sound will come out with less force. This indicates that there are degrees of stress.

‘The degree of force with which sound or a syllable or a word is uttered is stress.’

Kinds of Stress – There are three kinds of stress.

1. Syllable Stress
2. Word stress
3. Sentence stress

1. Syllable Stress – Syllable is a word or a part of a word pronounced by a single effort of voice.

There is variation in stress on syllable in English. The main points concerning it are as follows :

- a) There are words of two syllables with stress on the first, e.g. doc/tor ; sis/ter; fi/nish.
- b) There are words of two syllables with stress on the second, e.g. a/gain, mis/take; be/lieve.
- c) There are words of two syllables with stress on both, e.g. six/teen; up/stairs; un/known.
- d) There are words of three syllables with stress on first, e.g., pho/to/graphy, ho/li/day.
- e) There are words of three syllables with stress on first, e.g., dic/ta/tion; to/mo/rrow.

- f) There are words with three syllables with stress on third, e.g. un/der/stand.
- g) Words of four syllables have usually the stress on the last but one, e.g., e/du/ca/tion, pro/nun/cia/tion.
- h) If a word of two syllables is used as a noun and a verb, the noun will have stress on the first syllable and the verb on the second syllable.

Word Stress :

- (a) Content words stressed and structural words are not stressed.
- (b) Nouns, adjectives, main verbs and adverbs are stressed, whereas articles, auxiliary verbs, prepositions and conjunctions are not stressed.

