

### Financial English word stress mazes

Look at one of the mazes. Trace a route through the maze by only following the words which are stressed on the first syllable, starting at the top-left corner. You can go left, right, up or down from each square (not diagonally). When you think that you have finished, your teacher will tell you which square you should finish on and then how many squares are stressed on the first syllable, so you can try again if you haven't matched those things. The word in brackets like "(an)" are just to show you what kind of word it is, so you don't need to think about how those words are stressed.

Mark the stress on the other words to make sure that none are stressed on the 1<sup>st</sup> syllable. Then check the route through the maze as a class or with the answer key, asking about any words you pronounced wrongly, don't know how to use, etc.

Work together to pronounce the words which are stressed on the first syllable, making sure that you pronounce them all correctly.

Work together to pronounce all the other words, making sure you stress the right syllable.

Do the same stages with one or more of the other mazes.

Use the words below to find out the word stress rules for these kinds of words:

- Most nouns
- Nouns and verbs with the same form ("to increase" and "an increase", etc)
- Schwa (the "er" sound in "computer")
- Most prefixes like "un-" and "mis-"

#### Version 1

finance	savings	financial	funding	merchant	(an) export
account	broker	merger	creditor	deflation	colleague
return	percent	diversify	(to) produce	product	company
application	acquisition	investment	invest	manage	upgraded
exported	complaint	(to) present	return	interest	updated
subsidiary	corporation	advisor	cashier	income	profit

**Version 2**

dozen	advisory	(to) export	guaranteed	(to) decrease	succumb
(a) discount	payee	competitor	client	income	revenue
seller	budget	exchange	bankrupt	performance	turnover
support	ceiling	restructure	bonus	deductible	overdraft
department	earnings	market	asset	(to) increase	principal
financier	cooperation	statistics	investor	ascend	heirloom

**Version 3**

premium	data	repayment	employment	insider	accord
economy	shareholder	inherit	initial	B2B	commodity
taxable	fiscal	consumer	collateral	IPO	economic
average	inflation	insure	domestic	reserves	individual
fluctuate	debtor	exchange	debit	billion	prices
deflation	leverage	mortgage	wholesale	unlisted	payment

**Version 4**

capital	output	productivity	advise	compete	predict
industrial	margin	retail	commercial	perform	production
acquire	efficient	private	consumption	estate	financially
manufacture	prediction	dividend	borrow	volatility	CFO
percentage	complain	optimistic	sector	maximise	household
efficiency	accountant	M&A	receive	receipt	surplus

**Version 5**

bankruptcy	fiscally	budgetary	borrower	retailer	volatile
taxation	individualise	statistically	competitive	ascent	pessimism
inheritance	indices	industry	forecast	commerce	maximum
commodified	turbulent	inflate	insurance	recapitalise	unpredictable
inefficient	listed	trader	unproductive	manufacturer	uninsured
capitalisation	fluctuation	trillion	seventy	deficit	salary

### Word stress maze activity answers

The words stressed on the first syllable are in bold. The stressed syllable of the other words is written in each square.

#### Version 1

<b>finance</b>	<b>savings</b>	financial (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>funding</b>	<b>merchant</b>	(an) <b>export</b>
account (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>broker</b>	<b>merger</b>	<b>creditor</b>	deflation (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>colleague</b>
return (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	percent (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	diversify (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	(to) produce (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>product</b>	<b>company</b>
application (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	acquisition (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	investment (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	invest (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>manage</b>	upgraded (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
exported (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	complaint (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	(to) present (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	return (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>interest</b>	updated (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
subsidiary (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	corporation (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	advisor (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	cashier (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>income</b>	<b>profit</b>

#### Version 2

<b>dozen</b>	advisory (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	(to) export	guaranteed (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	(to) decrease	succumb (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
(a) <b>discount</b>	payee (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	competitor (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>client</b>	<b>income</b>	<b>revenue</b>
<b>seller</b>	<b>budget</b>	exchange (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>bankrupt</b>	performance (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>turnover</b>
support (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>ceiling</b>	restructure (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>bonus</b>	deductible (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>overdraft</b>
department (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>earnings</b>	<b>market</b>	<b>asset</b>	(to) increase (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>principal</b>
financier (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	cooperation (4 <sup>th</sup> )	statistics (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	investor (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	ascend (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>heirloom</b>

**Version 3**

<b>premium</b>	<b>data</b>	repayment (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	employment (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>insider (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>accord (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>
economy (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>shareholder</b>	inherit (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	initial (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	B2B (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	commodity (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
<b>taxable</b>	<b>fiscal</b>	consumer (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	collateral (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	IPO (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	economic (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>average</b>	inflation (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	insure (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	domestic (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	reserves (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	individual (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>fluctuate</b>	<b>debtor</b>	exchange (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>debit</b>	<b>billion</b>	<b>prices</b>
deflation (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>leverage</b>	<b>mortgage</b>	<b>wholesale</b>	unlisted (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>payment</b>

**Version 4**

<b>capital</b>	<b>output</b>	productivity (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	advise (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	compete (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	predict (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
industrial (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>margin</b>	<b>retail</b>	commercial (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	perform (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	production (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
acquire (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	efficient (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>private</b>	consumption (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	estate (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	financially (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
manufacture (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	prediction (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>dividend</b>	<b>borrow</b>	volatility (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	CFO (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
percentage (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	complain (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	optimistic (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<b>index</b>	<b>maximise</b>	<b>household</b>
efficiency (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	accountant (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	M&A (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	receive (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	receipt (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>surplus</b>

## Version 5

<b>bankruptcy</b>	<b>fiscally</b>	<b>budgetary</b>	<b>borrower</b>	<b>retailer</b>	<b>volatile</b>
taxation (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	individualise (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	statistically (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	competitive (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	ascent (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>pessimism</b>
inheritance (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>indices</b>	<b>industry</b>	<b>forecast</b>	<b>commerce</b>	<b>maximum</b>
commodified (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	<b>turbulent</b>	inflate (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	insurance (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	recapitalise (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	unpredictable (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
inefficient (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<b>listed</b>	<b>trader</b>	unproductive (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	manufacturer (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	uninsured (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
capitalisation (5 <sup>th</sup> )	fluctuation (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<b>trillion</b>	<b>seventy</b>	<b>deficit</b>	<b>salary</b>

### Schwa in financial vocabulary

Mark the stress on each word below, then say it with the unstressed vowel “schwa” as at least one of the other vowel sounds (like the first and third syllable of “banana”).

- acquire
- accord
- accountant
- acquisition
- advise
- billion
- broker
- client
- collateral
- company
- competitor
- complain
- cooperation
- corporation
- creditor
- data
- deductible
- dozen
- economy
- employment
- fiscal
- guaranteed
- individual
- inheritance
- initial
- insider
- investment
- M&A
- maximum
- merchant
- merger
- overdraft
- performance
- premium
- principal
- repayment
- restructure
- salary
- support
- taxable
- unpredictable

*Which prefixes and suffixes are usually pronounced with schwa?*

### Financial vocabulary word formation

*Without looking above, say as many different forms of these words as you can. Many forms not above are also possible.*

- account
- acquire
- advise
- apply
- bankrupt
- borrow
- cash
- commerce
- compete
- complain
- consume
- credit
- date
- debt
- deflate
- economy
- employ
- finance
- fiscal
- fluctuate
- grade
- heir
- index
- industry
- inflate
- insure
- invest
- lever
- list
- manage
- maximum
- merge
- optimism
- pay
- percent
- perform
- predict
- produce
- profit
- receive
- retail
- structure
- tax

*Compare with above, then share your extra ideas.*