

# 1 Stress statues

Learners stand in a line, in groups of four. Each learner represents a syllable in the word the teacher reads out. When the teacher reads the word, the students (as a race) have to decide how many syllables are in the word and which syllable carries the main stress. They organise themselves as statues (standing or crouching) to represent the word in order to get a point.

**Level Sample:** A1 + all levels. Most appropriate for younger learners but also works with older learners.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Language link** is the aim of the game – word stress

**Preparation:** Prepare a list of words your learners have already encountered. They could be organised according to topic, or randomly. Words we've used include :  
*tomato cauliflower pineapple ... elephant kangaroo giraffe ...*  
*transformer ipad empeethree ... footballer engineer greengrocer ...*  
*mathematics geography economics ... Netherlands Germany Canada ...*

Words for older students and adults. Several of the above plus .....

*asylum refugee immigrant ... cucumber circumstances photographer*  
*employer employee European ...*

**Procedure:** **Stage 1:** Learners stand up and line up in groups of four. The first learner is the first syllable of a word, the second learner is the second syllable, etc. Make it clear who is the beginning and who is the end!  
**Stage 2:** Read out a word they know and they have to line up in their group according to the syllables. If it's two syllables, two learners step aside and/or organise the other two; if it's three syllables, one steps aside and helps with organising. The 'syllables' crouch down, except for the stressed syllable, who remains standing.  
For the next word, the learner who was the fourth syllable (or the learners who were the third and fourth), move to the other end and become the first (or first and second) syllables.  
So for Word 1 e.g. *elephant*: A B C..... D. A stands, B and C crouch, D steps aside and helps organise.  
Word 2 e.g. *tomato* D A B.....C. D has moved to initial position. A stands, D and B crouch. C steps aside and helps organise.

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