Words commonly mispronounced

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each word with its standard British pronunciation guide.

1 colonel	____	a KWY-uh
2 receipt	____	b DET
3 debt	____	c EYE-luhnd
4 subtle	____	d RI-SEET
5 island	____	e ON-ist
6 choir	____	f KUR-nuhl
7 salmon	____	g SUT-uhl
8 honest	____	h SAM-uhn

2 Complete the word-stress patterns.

develop | hotel | photograph | photographer | photography | police | pronunciation | record

1 _____: PHO-tuh-graf

2 _____: fuh-TOG-ruh-fee

3 _____: fuh-TOG-ruh-fuh

4 _____: pruh-nun-see-AY-shuhn

5 _____: di-VEL-up

6 _____: puh-LEES

7 _____: ho-TEL

8 noun _____: REK-awd

3 Correct the pronunciation mistake described in each sentence.

1 She pronounced the *l* in salmon. _____

2 He pronounced the *b* in debt. _____

3 She said receipt with a /p/ sound. _____

4 He stressed the first syllable of police. _____

5 She said photography like photograph. _____

6 He used pronounce-iation for pronunciation. _____

7 She pronounced the *s* in island. _____

8 He pronounced choir as two written parts. _____

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4 Complete the pronunciation workshop report with words from the box.

choir | colonel | debt | honest | photography | police | pronunciation | receipt

The class began with silent letters. In **1** _____, the *b* is silent, and in **2** _____, the *p* is silent. The spelling of **3** _____ gives few clues to KUR-nuhl, while **4** _____ begins with a vowel sound. Next, learners practised **5** _____ as KWY-uh and stressed the second syllable of **6** _____. Finally, they compared **7** _____ with pronounce and shifted the stress in **8** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Stress can change
Related English words do not always keep stress in the same place. Photograph has first-syllable stress, photographer has second-syllable stress, and photography also stresses the second syllable. Unstressed vowels are often reduced, which is why sounding out every written vowel can produce unnatural speech. Learners should record stress together with meaning and spelling, then check a dictionary with audio when unsure.

1 Do related words always keep the same stress? _____

2 Which syllable is stressed in photograph? _____

3 Where is the stress in photographer? _____

4 What often happens to unstressed vowels? _____

5 Why can sounding every vowel seem unnatural? _____

6 What should learners record with meaning and spelling? ___

6 Rewrite using the pronunciation information in capitals.

1 The b in debt is not sounded. **SILENT** _____

2 Photography has stress on TOG. **SECOND** _____

3 Police ends with a stressed syllable. **LEES** _____

4 Pronunciation is not formed by keeping pronounce unchanged. **NOUN** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** pronunciation guide for six commonly mispronounced words. Group them by silent letters, changing stress or reduced syllables.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Mark stress consistently. [ ] Explain the source of each difficulty.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Standard pronunciations

1 **f** 2 **d** 3 **b** 4 **g** 5 **c** 6 **a** 7 **h** 8 **e**

2 Word-stress patterns

1 **photograph** 2 **photography** 3 **photographer** 4 **pronunciation** 5 **develop** 6 **police** 7 **hotel** 8 **record**

3 Corrections

1 *l* is **silent** 2 *b* is **silent** 3 *p* is **silent** 4 stress **LEES**
5 fuh-**TOG**-ruh-fee 6 **pronunciation** 7 *s* is **silent** 8 **KWY-uh**

4 Workshop report

1 **debt** 2 **receipt** 3 **colonel** 4 **honest** 5 **choir** 6 **police** 7 **pronunciation** 8 **photography**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 No. 2 The first syllable. 3 The second syllable. 4 They are reduced.
5 Unstressed vowels are reduced. 6 Stress.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Debt has a **silent b**. 2 Photography has **second-syllable stress**. 3 Police is pronounced puh-**LEES**. 4 **Pronunciation** is the noun from pronounce.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check stress placement, silent letters and reduced vowels.