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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Vocabulary

### Pronouncing verbs and nouns



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Catherine**

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Catherine...

**Neil**

And I'm Neil. Oh... Catherine.

**Catherine**

Yeah.

**Neil**

A **present**?

**Catherine**

Yes.

**Neil**

How kind. It's not even my birthday.

**Catherine**

I know, Neil. But every day's a present day in Learning English. Actually, I bought it because the word **present** is a key word for the topic we're going to **present** in this programme...

**Neil**

Ah... **PREsent** and **preSENT**. They are spelt same way but we say them differently.

**Catherine**

That's right, because today we're talking about words that are spelt the same, but pronounced differently, depending on whether we're using them as nouns or verbs.

**Neil**

Like **PREsent** and **preSENT**. So the **present** you gave me is the noun.

**Catherine**

That's right. And we're **presenting** 6 Minute Vocabulary – **present** here is a verb.

**Neil**

We'll be giving you more examples...

**Catherine**

And we'll have a quiz, so listen carefully ...

**Neil**

And we'll also bring you a top tip for learning vocabulary. And I've got an **invite** for Catherine to my party...

**Catherine**

And it's not even your birthday.

**Neil**

It's my birthday every day.

**Catherine**

OK. I'll come to your party then.

**Neil**

Well, more about that **invite** later...

**Catherine**

But first, let's hear Lucy talking about Sam Smith, her favourite singer. Neil: Sam Smith. Are you a fan?

**Neil**

I wouldn't say I'm a fan, but I'm aware of his work.

**Catherine**

Oh good.

**Neil**

Anyway, here's Lucy. And she is a big Sam Smith fan. Think about this question while you listen: Will the number of people who want to go to his concerts go up, or down?

**INSERT**

**Lucy**

I really want to go to a Sam Smith concert but the tickets have already sold out. Sometimes when that happens, they **increase** the number of concert dates. I want to hear him sing *Stay with me* – it won 'Record of the Year' at the Grammys. I hope he'll **record** some new songs soon. But that will mean an **increase** in people wanting concert tickets.

### Catherine

So we asked you: Will the number of people who want to go to Sam Smith concerts go up, or will it go down?

### Neil

And the answer is: it will go up. Lucy says there will be an **increase** in people wanting concert tickets.

### Catherine

Yes, and **increase** here is a noun, so the stress is on the first syllable: **INcrease**. But Lucy also used the same word as a verb. Listen to this clip. Where does the stress fall this time?

### INSERT CLIP 1

Sometimes when that happens, they **increase** the number of concert dates.

### Neil

This time, the stress falls on the second syllable – **inCREASE**, because Lucy's using the word as a verb.

### Catherine

Other nouns and verbs with the same spelling move the stress from the first to second syllable in the same way - like the noun **DEcrease**...

### Neil

...which becomes **deCREASE**, when it's a verb.

### Catherine

...and there is, of course Neil, the **INvite** you gave me to your party...

### Neil

Yes, **INvite** here is a noun with the stress on the first syllable. But if I say to Catherine, I want to **inVITE** you to my party on Saturday, **inVITE** is a verb, with the stress falling on the second syllable... Don't worry Catherine – I haven't forgotten...

### Catherine

Nor have I, Neil! Looking forward to it. And here's another clip from Lucy. Listen out for another word she uses as a noun and a verb with different stress patterns.

### INSERT CLIP 1

I want to hear him sing *Stay with me* – it won '**REcord** of the Year' at the Grammys. I hope he'll **reCORD** some new songs soon.

### Neil

We had **REcord** and **reCORD**. **REcord** is the noun, so the stress is on the first syllable.

**Catherine**

...And **reCORD** is the verb, so the stress is on the second syllable.

**IDENT**

6 Minute Vocabulary, from BBC Learning English.

**Neil**

We're talking about nouns and verbs that are spelt the same but pronounced differently, like a **REcord** and to **reCORD**.

**Catherine**

And we stress the first syllable when the word is a noun, and the second syllable when the word is a verb.

**Neil**

And now, it's time for a quiz, so get ready! Which is the correct way to say the missing word in these sentences? Number one: Michael Phelps has the [sfx: beep] for the most Olympic gold medals. Is it a) **reCORD** or b) **REcord**?

**Catherine**

It's **REcord** because it's a noun.

**Neil**

Well done if you got that right. Number two: We hope that sales will [sfx: beep] this month. Is it a) **INcrease** or b) **InCREASE**?

**Catherine**

And the answer is b) **InCREASE** because it's a verb.

**Neil**

And finally, number three: I need to buy a [sfx: beep] for my friends. They're getting married tomorrow. Is it a) **PREsent** or b) **preSENT**?

**Catherine**

It's a) **PREsent** because it's a noun.

**Neil**

And that's the end of the quiz – well done if you got them right.

**Catherine**

And it's almost the end of the programme.

**Neil**

But before we go, here's today's top tip for learning vocabulary: when you look up a word

in an online dictionary, listen to the audio and try to copy the word stress. If possible, record yourself saying the word, then compare your pronunciation with the audio from the dictionary.

### **Catherine**

There's more about this at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

### **Both**

Bye!

## Vocabulary points to take away

**a decrease (noun):** amount by which something becomes smaller in size or number  
The rise in tuition fees has led to a DEcrease in the number of students applying to our courses.

**to decrease (verb):** make the amount or number of something smaller  
We hope that by introducing trams, we can deCREASE the level of pollution in the city centre.

**an increase (noun):** amount by which something becomes bigger in size or number  
There has been a big INcrease in the number of young unemployed people in many European countries in the last few years

**increase (verb):** make the amount or number of something bigger  
After putting the rice in the water, inCREASE the temperature until the water starts to boil.

**an invite (noun):** invitation, written or spoken, to go somewhere  
I'm sorry I can't come for a drink with you tomorrow night, but thanks for the INVite anyway!

**invite (verb):** ask someone to go somewhere  
How many people did you inVITE for dinner? We've only got six chairs!

**a present (noun):** something you give to someone on a special occasion like a birthday or wedding  
My best PREsent was my new mobile. I couldn't believe it when I unwrapped it!

**present (verb):** show, give or introduce  
The Queen is going to preSENT the medals to the winners.

**a record (noun):** the best ever done, often in sport; music or song you can buy on a CD or download  
*The Guinness Book of Records* has some fascinating REcords, like how far a dog can ride a scooter!

**record (verb):** store sounds, music or information so they can be used later  
A good way to practise speaking English is to reCORD your voice on your phone and listen to yourself.