

## Stress Shift Words Answer Key

Vowels that become schwa in the unstressed verb forms:

- record - the e becomes schwa
- present - the e becomes schwa
- object - the e becomes schwa
- contract - the o becomes schwa
- produce - the o becomes schwa
- import - the o becomes schwa
- contest - the o becomes schwa
- permit - the e becomes schwa

Reflection answers will vary, but key ideas include:

- A vowel becomes weaker and sounds like uh when its syllable is not stressed.
- Changing stress can change the meaning because English uses stress patterns to mark nouns and verbs.

### Teacher's Guide

- Review that **stress** changes how vowels sound and often turns them into schwa in unstressed syllables.
- Read each pair aloud, exaggerating the stress so students can clearly hear the contrast.
- Support learners by having them clap or tap syllables to identify which is stressed in each version.
- For differentiation, provide a word list where students mark syllable stress before identifying schwa vowels.
- For extension, ask students to find more noun-verb stress pairs in books or class content and explain how stress changes meaning and pronunciation.