

Name _____



Stress Shift Words

Directions: Read each pair of words. The stress changes the meaning and the pronunciation. Mark which vowel becomes a **schwa** in the unstressed version. Then answer the reflection questions.

For each pair, underline the vowel in the second word that becomes a schwa.

1. **RE**cord (noun) / record (verb)
2. **PRE**sent (noun) / present (verb)
3. **OB**ject (noun) / object (verb)
4. **CON**tract (noun) / contract (verb)
5. **PRO**duce (noun) / produce (verb)
6. **IM**port (noun) / import (verb)
7. **CON**test (noun) / contest (verb)
8. **PER**mit (noun) / permit (verb)

Reflection Questions

1. What happens to a vowel sound when the syllable is not stressed?

2. Why do these words change meaning when the stress changes?

3. Which pair was easiest to hear the schwa in? Why?

4. Can you think of another word that changes meaning when you change the stress?
