DIVIDED USAGE IN ENGLISH ACCENTUATION.

It is not very long since arbitrary rules for pronunciation raised no unorthodox doubts in the minds of dictionary-devotees. But all that is changed. It is now generally recognized that language, in all its phases, is in a constant state of flux. Vocabulary, syntax, inflection, spelling, and pronunciation, -all these change not only from century to century but from day to day. A new reign of terror is being inaugurated for the old dogmatic utterances of the compilers. From the reverential holding of the written or the spoken word as a sacred and immutable entity, we are coming, properly enough, to regard them as the mere symbols which they truly are. We admit that these signs take on form and sound more or less flexible and accidental. The inevitable and the eternal are dropping out of our calculations. Change, continual and unregretted, has its due of recognition in the history of speech. Instead of trying to establish a fixed norm, students are now investigating the character of the changes taking place, and seeking for the laws by which those changes operate.

The spoken word is, obviously, continually subjected to disintegrating influences which do not attack the written word. The integrity of the former depends not only upon the tongue but also upon the ear of the person using it. A pronunciation may be modified in several ways. There can be a change in vowel-quantity, a change in stress, or a change in both. Our concern here is with the accent, mentioning vowel-quantity only when it is inextricably tangled with accent.

The English language, as has been pointed out, has two kinds of stress, sentence-stress, and word-stress. Concerning the first of these, only a word need be said. It is been noticed that, in expressions which become habitual and even trite, sentence-stress frequently deflects accent, especially when the thought is particularly emphatic. A normal word-accent is thus occasionally lost even when it appears in a different context.

The present study of word-accent is not an effort to trace historically the various stresses which a group of words may have had in the course of years. It is not an attempt to explain (except most casually or informally here and there) the causes underlying changes in stress. Its aim is merely to give, by the help of several hundred classified words, a graphic picture of some conditions, perhaps not uninteresting, of our actual habits of every-day accentuation. The groups will suggest points of departure for a systematic study of underlying causes. They will, in any case, show
how little harmony exists between our rules and our practice.

The method of gathering and grouping the words was as follows. From a well-known and rather ample collection of words said to be often mispronounced, all those have been chosen which were considered only on the ground of disputed accent. Such other words as have come to the writer's notice during the past few months have been added. For the classification, apology is to be made for its crudity and frequent unsatisfactoriness. It has been hard to get any method that would answer the purpose of an immediate and temporary working-basis. According to the plan finally adopted, some words of necessity appear in more than one group. This may prove advantageous in offering different points of view for the same word. Some groups are determined according to origin; some according to composition or formation; some according to age; some with reference to parts of speech; and still others are grouped according to use. The accents indicated in these pages are those given by the standard dictionaries to which most persons have access. In some cases no accent can be given. The following outline will be found useful.

Foreign Words of Classic Origin: -
  Compounded of prefix and root: -
    Compounds in Pairs: (chiefly dissyllabic)
      Nouns and Verbs.
      Nouns and Adjectives.
      Verbs and Adjectives.
    Compounds not in pairs: -
      Nouns.
      Adjectives and Adverbs.
      Verbs.
  Not Compounded of prefix and root: -
    Words in Common Use.
    Words in half-common, half-learned use.
    Words in learned use.
Foreign Words of Romance Origin.
Native Compounds.
Supplementary: -
  Accents Unauthorized but Used.
  Accents Authorized but Unused.
Compounds in Pairs: Nouns and Verbs.

The tradition in regard to these word places the accent of the noun on the prefix, and that of the verb on the root. Many, perhaps the majority, of such words conform to that rule to day. But the list which follows will show that the exceptions are by no means rare. There are at least many cases of doubles. Some words seem to be in a transitional stage, showing how strongly analogy operates to make forms and sounds identical, even when clearness is hazarded by lack of differentiation. It will be noticed that while most of the examples are dissyllables of classic origin, and compounds of prefix and root, some do not fall under these heads. They have been included because the indiscriminating folk-mind seems to have treated them on the analogy of those properly in this list. The same liberty in classification has been taken throughout the paper.

accent n. accent and accent v. The second form appears to be as common as the first, although contrary to rule.

address and address n. address v.
alloy and alloy n. Is the second form growing more popular?
alloy v.
ally and ally n.
ally v.
alternate n. and a.
alternate and alternate v.
annex and annex n. The second is rarely heard but has most authority.

annex v.
brevet n. and a. Brevet seems to be fairly common.
brevet v.
cement n.
cement v. Only the pedantic, however, say cement for the noun.
comment n.
comment v.
condition n.
condition v.
content and content n. and a. The second form for the plural as the contents of a book, has been favored lately. It may be remarked in this connection that we are not inclined to say context, probably because there is no verb "to context".

content v.

control n.
control v.
crochet n.  Crochet is heard among the uneducated.
crochet v.

decay n.
decay v.

decrease and decrease n.
decrease and decrease v.

defile and défile n.  Here there is no connection in meaning between noun and verb.
defile v.
detail and detail n.  Second is popular lately.
detail v.

discount n.
discount and discount v.

discourse n.
discourse v.  Both often heard discourse.

disgust n.
disgust v.

dismay n.
dismay v.

disorder n.
disorder v.

dispute n.
dispute v.
distress n.
distress v.  Does the prefix dis shun accent?  The same thing seems to be true of re.

exhibit n.
exhibit v.

exile n.
exile and exile v.

increase and increase n.
increase and increase v.

influence n.
influence v.  Often heard influence among the uneducated.
influence v.

instance n.
instance v.
institute n.
institute v.

interest n.
interest v. Sometimes ignorantly accented interest.

intrigue and intrigue n.
intrigue and intrigue v.

massage n.
massage v.

mention n.
mention v.

notice n.
notice v.

patent n.
patent v.

pension n.
pension v.

perfume and perfume n.
perfume v.

permit n. and permit
permit v.

pirate n.
pirate and pirate v.

police n. Sometimes ignorantly accented police.
police v.

progress n.
progress v. Formerly progress.

quarantine n.
quarantine v. Does the verb tend to become quarantine?
remârk  n.
remârk  v.

reply  n.
reply  v.

réprimand  n.
reprimand and réprimand  v.

repute  n.
repute  v.

réserve  n.
réserve  v.

réspect  n.
réspect  v.

réspite  n.
réspite  v. It seems to be true that in the comparatively few cases when the prefix re takes an accent, the value of the vowel is changed and the syllable becomes short.

reverse  n.
reverse  v.

rival  n.
rival  v.

romance and romance  n.
romance and romance  v.

sacrifice  n.
sacrifice  v.

shampoo  n.
shampoo  v.

sojourn  n.
sojourn  v.

surname  n.
surname and surname  v.

surprise  n.
surprise  v.

survey and survey  n.
survey  v.

warrant  n.
warrant  v.
Compounds in Pairs: Nouns and Adjectives.

The rule says that the noun shall receive the accent on the prefix, and the adjective on the root. The exceptions are less numerous than among the noun-verb pairs, but the list is probably very incomplete.

adépt n. Adept is unauthorized but is very common.
adépt a.

adult n. Is not adult much heard?
adult a.

expert and expert n.
expert a. Choice here seems to depend upon whether we use the adjective predicatively or attributively.
halcyon n.
halcyon a.
imbecile n.
imbecile a.

reflex n.
reflex a. This is one of the few words accenting the pre-
fix re.
Compounds in Pairs:— Adjectives and Verbs.

The rule places the accent of the verb on the root and that of the adjective on the prefix.

consummate a.
consummate v.

corréct a.
corréct v.

corrúpt a.
corrúpt v.

diréct a.
diréct v.

exémpt a.
exémpt v.

fóward a.
fóward v?

pérfect a.
pérfect or pérfect v.
This group includes nouns of classic origin, compounded of prefix and root, not in pairs. Most of the words were introduced into the language many years ago and are very common. The group should be closely studied in conjunction with the two similar lists of different parts of speech, which immediately follow. It would be of interest to determine whether one part of speech more than another inclines to root-stress; whether the genius of our language tends to place all accents as near the beginning of the word as possible; whether words recently introduced follow different analogies from those that have been in the language since the period of the strongest classical influence. It must again be insisted upon that the true folk-mind persistently ignores the real nature of composition and source, failing to distinguish between prefix and root, especially in very common words. The reader is asked, in each case, to test his ear to determine whether the accent indicated is the only one to which he is accustomed.

abdomen This accent has the weight of authority. According to rule, these words should be accented on that element in the word which was most important in the language from which it was derived. But abdomen is very commonly used, even by educated speakers.

access Here the rule is plainly at variance with practice which is universally access.

acumen Acumen is frequently heard.

advertisement Even advertisement is heard.

adventurer or advertiser
antepedium
aspirant Aspirant is not uncommon.
conditor
condiancy
combatant
combative
compeer Compeer is unauthorized.
communist The second is rarely, if ever heard.

complicity The natural tendency appears to say complicity.
confiscation Confiscation is heard.
conservator or conservator
continence
contumelion
contemplator or contemplator. Compare similar words in succeeding groups.

defect. Defect is very common. This would make a profitable study inasmuch as most words in fact seem to have no tendency to initial accent.

décade. Decade seems to have been once in vogue. It is to be noticed that when the prefixes de and re do take an accent, the quantity of the vowel is changed, the e becoming weaker.

defalcator.
deficit. Deficit is occasional and was probably formerly authorized.

démonstrator or demonstrator. The second is rare.

desert.
discrepancy or discrepancy. The second is rare.
disputant.
dissyllable or dissyllable.
diván. This appears also among foreign words of romance origin.

eagry.
equilibrist or equilibrist.

excise. Excise appears to be coming in.

exponent. Exponent is heard.

expurgator or expurgator.

expirator or expirator.

inquiry.

interstice or interstice. Is the first ever heard?

malefactor. Is not malefactor as common?

malpractice.
mischievousness.
multiplicand or multiplicand.

obduracy or obduracy.
obsequies.

occultism.

occultist.

opponent or opponent. The second is rather unusual.

panegyric.

pánegyrist.

precedence. Precedence is unauthorized but is very common.

precedency.

predecessor or prédecesor. This is a matter of primary and secondary accents.

prétence. Prétence is common.

profile. This is of romance origin. When the French value of the l is retained, the accent is on the ultimate.

prétext or pretext.

preceptory or préceptory.

process.

prolocutor or prolocutor.

profess or professed.
recess Usually heard among children recess.
recusancy or recusancy
research Research seem to be as common.
respirator
retailer or retailer
subsidence subsidence.
tribunal
trisyllable or trisyllable.
COMPOUNDS OF PREFIX AND ROOT NOT IN PAIRS: CLASSIC ORIGIN: ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS.

See remarks for preceding group.

abject Possibly, verbs like object influence our choice of abject

abjectly

adjec tival or adjec tival

accessory or accessory Could unnecessary influence this word?

applicable A desire to get the easiest pronunciation would account for applicable.

approbative

adverse or adverse Does choice depend upon the attributive or predicative use of the word?

biparous

combative

commendable Formerly commendable. This seems to be an exception to the general tendency to favor initial stress.

comparable Formerly comparable.

cumbersome Is not composite more common?

conceal Conceal is often heard.

contemplative

contrary Contrary is often heard.

contrite

conversant

conversely This is opposed to common usage.

convex

decadent or decadent

decorative An unexplained caprice has made decorative a fad for some years.

decorous or decorous The second is rare.

demonical

demonstrable

designatory or designated

desirable

devinous or devinous

discrepant or discrepant

disinterested Disinterested is often heard.

dissolute

diverse or diverse

diversely or diversely

devout or devoutly

devoutly or devoutly

devoutly

devoutly

exemplificable Exemplificable is more easily said.

exquisite Exquisite is still common.

exterminate

exterminate

exterminate
illuminated is very common
inchoative or inchoative
incomparable Formerly incomparable
indecorous Plainly contrary to every-day usage.
indicatory
indisputable Formerly indisputable
inexplicable
infecund or infecund
infusible
infinite
inhospitable
inimical or inimical
innate or innate
inopportune or inopportune. It would be of interest to
study the effect of a negative prefix
on accent.
inspiratory or inspiratory
interest
interestingly
irrespirable
irrecognizable Is not irrecognizable common?
irremediable
irreparable
irrevocable
mischievous
mischievously
monarchical
obdurate or obdurate
obligatory or obligatory
occult
official or official
opportune or opportune
ornate or ornate
peremptory
peremptorily
perfect or perfected Really a verb.
perfunctory or perfunctory
premature or premature
prolix or prolix
purposive
quadrupedal
recognizable or recognizable
recondite or recondite
recepient or receptant
réféorable
diffluent
refrangible
refutable or refutable
remediless or remediless
réfétable
refutable
respirable
respiratory or respiratory
réticent
retributive
révocable
subjected
sublunary
transferable
tripartite or tripartite
triune
unfrequented
uninterested
uninteresting
unprecedented
See remarks for NOUNS.

acclimate  Acclimate is common.
advertise  Formerly advertise, now frequently advertise.
compensate or compensate
concentrate or concentrate
confiscate or confiscate
constellate or constellate
construe  Construe is used by every one except pedants.
contemplate or contemplat
controvert or controvert  Contradict appears to have no tendency to initial accent.
demonstrate or demonstrate  The second is older and now less common.
desiccate or desiccate
devastate or devastate
dilate  Dilate seems to be more usual.
denervate or denervate
expurgate or expurgate
extirpate or extirpate
illustrate  Illustrate is not allowed by the books.
importune formerly import une
improvise
interpolate  Formerly interpolate
misdemeanor  mísóntestr
objurgate
remigrate or remigrate
remonstrate  Notice that démonstrate has discarded its penultIMATE accent.
térignersate
trans migrate
unmask
This list of words, when studied in connection with the two groups that follow, will be found suggestive. All three lists include words of classic origin, which are divided according to their use into the common, the partly-common and partly learned, and the learned. Decision as to such purely arbitrary classification is more or less a purely personal matter. It is to be noticed that the words in the first list have been long in the language and were probably never confined to strictly learned use. Those in the second group mark a transitional stage between the strictly words and those which, through newspapers or educational progress, are becoming daily more the property of the masses. The last list includes words in regard to which discussion has arisen, but which seem to the writer to be only in the vocabularies of those rather highly educated. It would be interesting to establish some theory as to our habit of accentuation in taking-over words from learned speech into every-day English. It will be noticed that these lists include many obvious compounds but as they are scientific terms, it seemed wiser to treat them here.

canine Canine is very common.
chastisement Chastisement is heard.
chastise Chastise seems to be fairly popular.
corporal Adjectives in eal and ean are an interesting group. The rule forbids accent on the penultimate syllable except in a few isolated cases, but the general desire seems to be to swing all such words in the line of the exceptions.

diocesan diocesan diocesan
domain
elephantine It is considered incorrect to accent the first syllable.
esquire or esquire
frankincense or Frankincense Perhaps more properly among

Native Compounds.
fraternize or fraternize
harrass There is no authority for harass.
hirsute or hirsute.
horizon Formerly hőrizon.
hymenial This may be largely influential in deflecting other accents.
hospitable
idea
idéal
justificative
justificatory or justificatory
lamentable
lessor When contrasted with lessee, it is lessor.
maniscal
mádócre
mobile or mobile
necessarily The tendency seems to be to strengthen necessarily.
néctaréan Herculean should also be considered here for
purposes of contrast.
orchestra or orchestra The second is a fad just now.
ochístico or orchestral The second has always been more
common. It may have influenced orchestra.
oíson
óitiose or oítiose
pacification Variously heard.
pacificator or pacificator.
paradisean
rédentéal
péony Country-people say péony.
philippic
piánist
placard or placard
quandary or quándary
robust Robust is popular.
salutary
sinister or sinister The second is rare.
stratégist or stratégist The first is rare.
véhémence
véhément These two words are often differently accented.
vindicative or vindicative
vindicatory or vindicatory
voluntarily See necessarily.
Most of the words in this group will be found to be the creations of scientists and other learned men. These words have come to be the property of nearly one. Many of them belong to the science of medicine and thus come naturally into the speech of those who suffer from the ills the names stand for. Others are introduced and kept in notice by the newspapers, so that it is conceivable that readers adopt them into their vocabularies without ever having heard them pronounced by the informed. New inventions would be in this category. Pronunciation of difficult words is determined, perhaps, by convenience and the individual sense of euphony. It is in this group that obscure analogies enter largely. The normal, classic accent preferred by the informed has here interesting battles with popular accent. The most technical words appear to be formed by the scientists utterly without regard to the fact that the words will have to be pronounced.

allopathic
allopathist
allopathy
apathesis
beine. A tendency, purely popular, to accent final syllables in ine is to be noticed.
cenimeter or centimeter
chronologic
chronological
chronology
curator. This word, although not a compound, appears to follow the analogy of such words as abdomen.
cylindric
cématis
comatose or comatose
cysticure. Seven pronunciations are allowed.
cézeme
electroty or electrotypy
elegant or elegiac
empyrean or empyréan. See similar words in Group
gasoline
hieroglyphist or hieroglyphist
homeopathic
homeopathist
homeopathy

Alphabetical arrangement shows here its disadvantages. These words should be grouped with others of like formation.
lachrymose or lachrymoste. See stioste.
lethargic
litó-grapher
magneto—As prefix for scientific compounds.
mattutinal or matutinal
meteoscope or météroscope
microscopist or microscopist
orotund or òrotund
orthopeist or orthoepist
orthoepy or orthoëpy
parèsis. More popular will has clearly determined upon parésis.
phosphorous—Formerly phosphorus.
photogravure
platinum or platinum
plebéian
plebíanism
plethoric or plethoric
polygamy
quinine—Varying pronunciation.
roséola—Commonly pronounced roséolia.
sulphuric—Formerly sulphuric
télégrapher or télégrapher Notice that photographe is not
allowed, while télégrapher is used.
télégraphist or télégraphist
télégraphy
télescopist or télescopist
télescopy or télescopy
trachea or trachæa
typographer
typographe
typography
vértigo or vertigo
xélogoapher
xélographer
xélophone
zodiacal
FOREIGN WORDS IN STRICTLY USE.

These words illustrate no tendencies of the real folk-mind and are, therefore, less suggestive than any other lists. Disputes as to their proper accentuation are carried on by the well-informed. Choice, when made, is that of deliberation on the part of those cognizant of rules, origins, and laws of analogy. As these words become more common, they will grow more interesting.

ábacus
acetate
ácetin
acétous
agáve
ámine
ángina pectoris
álbumen
alvéolar
anamórfosis
antepenult
árist
ármillary
ýsymptote
átaxy
athénéum
auréola
avatár
benzol
bibliothecal
bipartite
cabá
cafféine
cédique
calcínable
camphene
cautéchouc
capucín
cátafalque
centlitér
céphalíce
céphalódók
chalédony
ícíatrix
cójportage
cólumbary
córnea
cotyledon
cundíform
curacáda
décaliter
déciliter
diferesis
diatom
diathesis
elephantiasis
encephalic
endosmosis
exosmosis
euthenasia
exerétist
gladiolus
gyrfalcon
hegemony
heliotypy
inchoative
laryngal
légume
levantine
lithotrity
manganese
masseater
masticatory
médicament
mesencephalic
météorite
necrológic
necrologist
nucleolus
nunniatory
octogenary
ophthalmic
orthogénous
pernult
pharyngeal
popliteal
prothomotary
ptisan
pyrites
quadrumanía
rácemous
rhizome
rubéola
sagittal
scalpel
sequelae
splenetic
taloïse
tantivy
theocrasy
trichina
trombodités
typhethete
umbilicus
variolae
vésicatory
vécule
These words, mostly from the French, are all in rather common use. They show a struggle between their native accent and the Teutonic accent. Many show great modification of vowel-quantity as well as accent. While the former can not be indicated here, every ear will readily bear witness to the capricious compromises which are effected. We have no definite principles regulating the taking-over of these new words. The list may suggest that the commoner, homelier words are more completely and more rapidly anglicised. These words are also often introduced by newspapers, and persons using them often remain in happy ignorance of their native pronunciation. This may be noticed very markedly of late, owing to the sudden importing of many words connected with automobiles and other racing machines. Sometimes persistent effort and discussion has resulted in establishing a pronunciation more nearly like the original. This may be noticed in such words as dépôt.

amour
anchovy
argôt
assignat
baschaute
badinage
bagatelle
ballet
bandolina
bouquet
buffet
bureau
burlèse
café
carniche
carmagnole
cartel
cashmere
centime
chapéau
chatelaine
chimpanzee
chignon
clairvoyance
clairvoyant
cloisonné
cornac
country
cuirass
dépôt
dialogue
divan

signor
sorriquet
tableau
tabourét
tâllyho
tapis
tarantula
théâtre
tirade
tontine	
toreador
tragedienne
trousseau
turquoise
ubu
vanoise
vaudeville
vendue
vace versa
vignette
viola
virago
NATIVE COMPOUNDS:

The following words are offered without comment. The list is very incomplete, but may serve to illustrate the many cases of divided usage which occur in words supposed to be accented according to the genius of our language.

afóresaid
albéit
archángel
árchdésecon
árchbishop
common-wealthish
dandelion
tórefather
fréemason
gainst
grand-daughter
hearsay
highwayman
ice-cream
langsyne
offspring
órdeal
píecemeal
ránsack
ready-made
séto
short-lived
thanks-giving
thereof
untoward
wáist-coat
waylóy
whereof
wherewith
wherewithál
whooping-cough
wind-pipe
yesterday
SUPPLEMENTARY GROUPS:— ACCENTS UNAUTHORIZED BUT OCCASIONALLY HEARD.

These accents seem, upon examination, to be cases of isolated blunders, and are in no sense phases of a general tendency. They are given here because they appear in the book from which the words in this classification were mostly gathered; and because they occasionally suggest obscure analogies. It would be profitable to inquire, in each case, why the speaker came to use the particular accent indicated. Such an investigation might bring to light the fact that the stress now obsolete was once universal, or it might show merely, the individual characteristics of the speaker or a limited community.

absolutism
academician
adaptation
admirable
allegorist
anabasis
area
aerrear
artificer
assets
baptismal
blasphemous
colon
contribute
decade
deficit
epitome
equipment
equitable
estate
finite
fragmentary
illustration
impétus
impious
impiously
impotent
impotently
indécorum
industry
inférence
legislatice
linoléum
melodión
mercantile
mischievous
monarchic
obséquies
octopus
palette
papyrus
pedestal
penny
philippic
phosphorus
photographer
photogravure
plebeian
princess
purposive
recognize
reticent
tarantula
theatre
tribunal
vagary
alabaster
alcove
ancestral
anemone
asphalt
avalanche
balcony
cameo
celibacy
chamois
climactic
commandant
communist
contour
consols
confessor
corral
cornet
corollary
demonstrate
demonstrator
desiccate
devastate
discrepancy
discrepant
dyspepsy
endosmose
essayist
excretory
expiator
frankincense
fraternize
galaxy
imbecile
infecund
imimical
interlocutor
interstice
matutinal
metonymy
parole
philistinism
quandary
sinister
theocracy
trombone
DIVIDED USAGE IN ENGLISH ACCENTUATION.

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Essay submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the Faculty of Philosophy Columbia University.
DIVIDED USAGE IN ENGLISH ACCENTUATION.

It is not very long since arbitrary rules for pronunciation raised no unorthodox doubts in the minds of dictionary-devotees. But all that is changed. It is now generally recognized that language in all its phases is in a constant state of flux. Vocabulary, syntax, inflection, spelling, and pronunciation, all these change not only from century to century but from day to day. A new reign of terror is being inaugurated for the old dogmatic utterances of the compilers. From the reverential holding of the written or the spoken word as a sacred and immutable entity, we are coming, properly enough, to regard them as the mere symbols which they truly are. We admit that these signs take on form and sound more or less flexible and accidental. The inevitable and the eternal are dropping out of our calculations. Change, continual and unregretted, has its due of recognition in the history of speech. Instead of trying to establish a fixed norm, students are now investigating the character of the changes taking place, and seeking for the laws by which these changes operate.

The spoken word is obviously continually subjected to disintegrating influences which do not attack the written word. The integrity of the former depends not only upon the tongue but also upon the ear of the person using it. A pronunciation may be modified in several ways. There can be a change in vowel-quantity, a change in stress, or a change in both. Our concern here is with the accent, mentioning vowel-quantity only when it is inextricably tangled with accent.

The English language, as has been pointed out, has two kinds of stress, sentence-stress, and word-stress. Concerning the first of these, only a word need be said. It has been noticed that in expressions which become habitual and even trite, sentence-stress frequently deflects accent, especially when the thought is particularly emphatic. A normal word-accent is thus occasionally lost even when it appears in a different context.

The present study of word-accent is not an effort to trace historically the various stresses which a group of words may have had in the course of years. It is not an attempt to explain (except most casually or informally here and there) the causes underlying changes in stress. Its aim is merely to give, by the help of several hundred classified words, a graphic picture of some conditions, perhaps not uninteresting, of our actual habits of every-day accentuation. The groups will suggest points of departure for a systematic study of underlying causes. They will, in any case, show
how little harmony exists between our rules and our prac-
tice.

The method of gathering and grouping the words was as fol-
monds. From a well-known and rather ample collection of words
said to be often mispronounced, all those have been chosen
which were considered only on the ground of disputed accent.
Such other words as have come to the writer's notice during
the past few months have been added. For the classifica-
tion, apology is to be made for its crudity and frequent un-
satisfactoriness. It has been hard to get any method that
would answer the purpose of an immediate and temporary
working-basis. According to the plan finally adopted, some
words, of necessity, appear in more than one group. This may
prove advantageous in offering different points of view for
the same word. Some groups are determined according to
origin; some according to composition or formation; some
according to age; some with reference to parts of speech;
and still others are grouped according to use. The accents
indicated in these pages are those given by the standard
dictionaries to which most persons have access. In some
cases no accent can be given. The following outline will be
found useful.

Foreign Words of Classic Origin:

- Compounded of prefix and root:
  - Compounds in Pairs: (chiefly disyllabic)
    - Nouns and Verbs.
    - Nouns and Adjectives.
    - Verbs and Adjectives.
  - Compounds not in pairs:
    - Nouns.
    - Adjectives and Adverbs.
    - Verbs

- Not Compounded of prefix and root:
  - Words in Common Use.
  - Words in half-common, half-learned use.
  - Words in learned use.

Foreign Words of Romance Origin.

Native Compounds.

Supplementary:

- Accents Unauthorized but Used.
- Accents Authorized but Unused.
Compounds in Pairs: Nouns and Verbs.

The tradition in regard to these word places the accent of the noun on the prefix, and that of the verb on the root. Many, perhaps the majority, of such words conform to that rule to day. But the list which follows will show that the exceptions are by no means rare. There are at least many cases of doublets. Some words seem to be in a transitional stage, showing how strongly analogy operates to make forms and sounds identical, even when clearness is hazarded by lack of differentiation. It will be noticed that, while most of the examples are dissyllables of classic origin and compounds of prefix and root, some do not fall under these heads. They have been included, because the undiscriminating folk-mind seems to have treated them on the analogy of those properly in this list. The same liberty in classification has been taken throughout the paper.

accent n. accent and accent v. The second form appears to be as common as the first, although contrary to rule.

address and address n. address v. ally and alloy n. Is the second form growing more popular? ally v.

ally and ally n.
ally v.
alternate n. and a.
alternate and alternate v.
annex and annex n. The second is rarely heard but has most authority.

annex v.
brevet n. and a. Brévet seems to be fairly common.
brevet v.
cement n.
cément v. Only the pedantic, however, say cément for the noun.
comment n.
comment v.
condition n.
condition n.
content and content n. and a. The second form for the plural, as "the contents of a book," has been favored lately. It may be remarked in this connection that we are not inclined to say context, probably because there is no verb "to context."
crochet n. Crochet is heard among the uneducated.
crochet v.

decay n.
decay v.

decrease and decrease n.
decrease and decrease v.

defile and défile n. Here there is no connection in meaning between noun and verb.

détail and detail n. Second is popular lately.
detail v.

discount n.
discount and discount v.

discourse n.
discourse v. Both often heard discourse.

disgust n.
disgust v.

dismay n.
dismay v.

disorder n.
disorder v.

dispute n.
dispute v.
distress n.
distress v. Does the prefix dis shun accent? The same thing seems to be true of re.

exhibit n.
exhibit v.

exile n.
exile and exile v.

increase and increase n.
increase and increase v.

influence n.
influence v. Often heard influence among the uneducated.

instance n.
instance v.
institute n.
institute v.

interest n.
interest v. Sometimes ignorantly pronounced interest.

intrigue and intrigue n.
intrigue and intrigue v.

massage n.
massage v.

mention n.
mention v.

notice n.
notice v.

patent n.
patent v.

pension n.
pension v.

perfume and perfume n.
perfume v.

permit and permit n.
permit v.

pirate n.
pirate and pirate v.

police n. The ignorant say police.
police v.

progress n.
progress v. Formerly progress.

quarantine n.
quarantine v. Does the verb tend to be quarantine?

rebuff n.
rebuff v.

recall n.
recall v.

redress n.
redress v.

reform n.
reform v.
remark n.
remark v.

reply n.
reply v.

reprimand n.
reprimand and reprimand v.

repute n.
repute v.

reserve n.
reserve v.

respect n.
respect v.

respite n.
respite v. It seems to be true that in the comparatively few cases when the prefix re takes an accent, the value of the vowel is changed and the syllable becomes short.

reverse n.
reverse v.

rival n.
rival v.

romance and romance n.
romance and romance v.

sacrifice n.
sacrifice v.

shampoo n.
shampoo v.

sojourn n.
sojourn v.

surname n.
surname and surname v.

surprise n.
surprise v.

survey and survey n.
survey v.

warrant n.
warrant v.
Compounds in Pairs: Nouns and Adjectives.

The rule says that the noun shall receive the accent on the prefix, and the adjective on the root. The exceptions are less numerous than among the noun-verb pairs, but the list is probably very incomplete.

adept n. Adept is unauthorized but is very common.
adept a.

adult n. Is not adult much heard?
adult a.

expert and expert n.
expert a. Choice here seems to depend upon whether we use the adjective predicatively or attributively.

halcyon n.
halcyon a.

imbecile n.
imbecile a.

réflex n.
réflex a. This is one of the few words accenting the prefix re.
Compounds in Pairs:— Adjectives and Verbs.

The rule places the accent of the verb on the root and that of the adjective on the prefix.

consúmmate a.
consummate v.

corréct a.
correct v.

corrúpt a.
corrupt v.

diérct a.
direct v.

exémpt a.
exempt v.

fórward a.
forward v.

pérfect a.

perfect and perfect v.
This group includes nouns of classic origin, compounded of prefix and root, not in pairs. Most of the words were introduced into the language many years ago and are very common. The group should be closely studied in conjunction with the two similar lists of different parts of speech, which immediately follow. It would be of interest to determine whether one part of speech more than another inclines to root-stress; whether the genius of our language tends to place all accents as near the beginning of the word as possible; whether words recently introduced follow different analogies from those that have been in the language since the period of the strongest classical influence. It must again be insisted upon that the true folk-mind persistently ignores the real nature of composition and source, failing to distinguish between prefix and root, especially in very common words. The reader is asked, in each case, to test his ear to determine whether the accent indicated is the only one to which he is accustomed.

abdomen This accent has the weight of authority. According to rule, these words should be accented on that element in the word which was most important in the language from which it was derived. But abdomen is very commonly used, even by educated speakers.

access Here the rule is plainly at variance with practice which is universally access.

acumen Acumen is frequently heard.

adaptation
admiralty
advertisement or advertisement Even advertisement is heard.

advertiser or advertiser
antenomedium
aspirant Aspirant is not uncommon.

coadjutor
coadjuvancy
combatant
combativeness
compeer Compeer is unauthorized.

communistor communist The second is rarely, if ever heard.

condolence The natural tendency appears to say condolence.

confiscation Confiscation is heard.

conservator or conservator
contumacy
cognomen
contemplator or contémplator

Défaut  Défaut is very common. This would make a profitable study inasmuch as most words in fact seem to have no tendency to initial accent.

décade  Décade seems to have been once in vogue. It is to be noticed that when the prefixes de and re do take an accent, the quantity of the vowel is changed, the e becoming weaker.

defalcator
deficit  Déficit is occasionné and was probably formerly authorized.
démonstrator or démonstrator  The second is rare.
désert
discrepancy or dis cáre  The second is rare.
disputant
dissyllable or dissyllable
díwan  This appears also among foreign words of romance origin.

eury
equilibrist or equilibrist

excise  Excise appears to be coming in.

exponent  Exponent is heard.
expurgator or expurgator
extirpator or extirpator

interstice or interstice  Is the first ever heard?
Malefactor  Is not mâlefactor as common?
malpratice

mischievousness

multiplicand or multiplicand

obduracy or obduracy

obsequies

occultism

occultist

opponent or opponent  The second is rather unusual.

panegyric

pánegyrist

précédence  Précédence is unauthorized but is very common.

précéde  This is a matter of primary and secondary accents.

prétence  Prétence is common.

prófile  This is of romance origin. When the French value of i is retained, the accent is on the ultimate.

prétext or prétex

préceptory or préceptory

procuress

procócut or procócut

prosaist or prosaist
rècess Usually heard among children récess.
résusancy or recusancy
research Research seem to be as common.
résipitor
retailer or rétailer
subsidence
tribunal
trisyllable

To be added:
conimentary or conimentary
décidence or fidendence
confidant
coadjuant
interloper or interloper
antismony or antimony
ressource or résource
précursor or précurseur
aspect
COMPONDS OF PREFIX AND ROOT NOT IN PAIRS; CLASSIC ORIGIN: ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

See remarks for preceding group.

abject Possibly, verbs like object influence our choice of abject

adjactival or adjectival

accesary or accessory Could necessary influence this word?

accessory or accessory

admirable Formerly admirable

admirably Formerly admirably

applicable A desire to get the easiest pronunciation would account for aplicable

approbative

adverse or adverse Does choice depend upon the attributive or predicative use of the word?

biparous

combative

commendable Formerly commendable. This seems to be an exception to the general tendency to favor initial stress.

comparable Formerly comparable.

composite Is not composite more common?

côncave Concave is often heard.

contemplative

cöntrary Contrary is often heard.

cöntrite

cônversant

conversely This is opposed to common usage.

convex

décadent or decadent

décorous or décorous The second is rare.

démoniacal

démonstrable

designatory or designate

despised

déclivous or déclivous

discrepant or discrepant

disinterested Disinterested is often heard.

dissolute

divérsely or diverse

diversely or diversely

excrétory or excretory

exemplary

explicable Explicable is more easily said.

exquisite Exquisite is still common.

extant

formidable
illustrated is very common
inchoative or inchoative
incomparable  Formerly incomparable
indecorous  Plainly contrary to every-day usage.
indicatory
indisputable  Formerly indisputable
inexplicable
infectful or infecund
infernible
infinite
inhospitable
inhumical or inimical
innate or innate
inopportune or inopportune. It would be of interest to study the effect of a negative prefix on accent.
inspiratory or inspiratory
integral
interesting
intercalary
irrespirable
irrescognizable  Is not irrescognizable common?
irrefutable
irreparable
irrevocable
mischievous
mischievously
monarchic
obdurate or obdurate
obligatory or obligatory
occult
officinal or officinal
opportune or opportune
ornate or ornate
perremptory
perremptorily
perfected or perfected  Really a verb.
perfuntory or perfunctory
premature or premature
prolix or prolix
purposive
quadripedal
recognizable or récognizable
recondite or récondite
recusant or récusant
référable
réfluent
réfragable
réfutable or réfutable
remediless or rémediless
réparable
réputable
respirable
respiratory or respiratory
retributive
revocable
subjected
subliminary
transferable
tripartite
unprecedented
uninteresting

leadership
\text{unconvincing}
acclimate  Acclimate is common.
advertise  Formerly advertise, now frequently advertise.
compensate or compensé
concentrate or concentré
confiscate or confisqué
constellate or constellé
construe  Construe is used by every one except pedants.
contemplate or contempler
controvert or controvert  Contradict appears to have no
tendency to initial accent.
démonstrate or démonstrer  The second is older and now less
common.

désiccate or desiccate
dévastate or devastate
dilate  Dilate seems to be more usual.
dénervate or énervate
expurgate or expurgate
éxtirpate or extirpate
illustrate  Illustrate is not allowed by the books.
important  Formerly important
improvise
interpolate  Formerly interpolate
misjudgment  Misjudgment
objurgate
remigrate or rémigrer
remonstrate  Notice that démonstrer has discarded its penul-
timate accent.

térigérate
trans migrare
unmásk

To be added:

connate or connotate
invidate
recollect or récollet, according to meaning.
dépumérate or dépulmate
This list of words, when studied in connection with
the two groups that follow, will be found suggestive. All
three lists include words of classic origin, which are di-
vided, according to their use, into the common, the partly-
common and partly learned, and the learned. Decision as
to such purely arbitrary classification is more or less a
purely personal matter. It is to be noticed that the words
in the first list have been long in the language, and were
probably never confined to strictly learned use. Those in
the second group mark a transitional stage between the
strictly words and those which, through newspapers or educa-
tional progress, are becoming daily more the property of the
masses. The last list includes words in regard to which
discussion has arisen, but which seem to the writer to be
only in the vocabularies of those rather highly educated. It
would be interesting to establish some theory as to our habit
of accentuation in taking-over words from learned speech
into every-day English. It will be noticed that these lists
include many obvious compounds, but, as they are scientific
terms, it seemed wise to treat them here.

canine Cânine is very common.
châtisement Châtisement is heard.
châtie Chastize seems to be fairly popular.
corporal Adjectives in eal and ean are an interesting group.
The rule forbids accent on the penultimate syllable except
in a few isolated cases, but the general desire seems to be to
swing all such words in the line of the exceptions.

dioecesan diocézan diócesan
domín
elephantine It is considered incorrect to accent the first
syllable.
équilibrium or esquifre
frankincense or frankincense Perhaps more properly among

Native Compounds,
fraternize or fraternize
hárrass There is no authority for hárrass.
hírsute or hírsute.
horizon Formerly hórizon.
hymenál This may be largely influential in deflecting
other accents.
hóspitable idéa
idéal
justificative justificatory or justificatory
lamentable
lessor When contrasted with lessee, it is lessor.
maniacal
médiocre
mobile or mobile
necessarily The tendency seems to be to strengthen necessarily.
necturan Herculaneum should also be considered here for purposes of contrast.
orchestra or orchestral The second is a fad just now.
orchestral or orchestral The second has always been more common. It may have influenced orchestral.

orison
otiose or otiose
pacification Vardusly heard.
pacificator or pacificator.
paradisian
pédestal
peony Country-people say peony.
philippic
piániist
placard or plácard
quádary or quandary
robust Robust is popular.
salutary
sinister or sinister The second is rare.
stratégist or stratégist The first is rare.
véhémence
véhement These two words are often differently accented.
vindicative or vindicative
vindicatory see necessarily
voluntarily see necessarily.

It is added:-

héjira or héjira
Allah
FOREIGN WORDS NOT STRICTLY COMPOUNDED OF PREFIX AND ROOT:-

CLASSIC ORIGIN: PARTLY LEARNED AND PARTLY COMMON.

Most of the words in this group will be found to be

the creations of scientists and other learned men. These

words have come to be the property of nearly one. Many of

them belong to the science of medicine, and thus come natu-

rally into the speech of those who suffer from the ills

the names stand for. Others are introduced and kept in notice

by the newspapers, so that it is conceivable that readers

adopt them into their vocabularies without ever having heard

them pronounced by the informed. New inventions would be

in this category. Pronunciation of difficult words is de-

termined, perhaps, by convenience and the individual sense

of euphony. It is in this group that obscure analogies

enter largely. The normal, classic accent preferred by the

informed has here interesting battles with popular accent.

The most technical words appear to be formed by the scien-

tists utterly without regard to the fact that the words

will have to be pronounced.

allopathic
allopathist
allopathy
apothecary
bézine A tendency purely popular to accent final syllables

in ine is to be noticed.
céntimeter or centimeter
chronologic
chronological
chronology
curâtor This word although not a compound, appears to

follow the analogy of such words as abdomen.
cylindric
cématic
comatose or comatose
cynosure Seven pronunciations are allowed.
éczema
electrotypy or électrotypy
elegiac or elégic
empyéan or empyrèan See similar words in Group
gasoline
hieroglyphist or hieroglyphist
homeopathic
homeopathist
homeopathy

Alphabetical arrangement shows here its dis-
advantages. These words should be grouped with others
of like formation.
láchrymose or lachrymose See òtiose.
lethargic
lithographer lithography
magneto  As prefix for scientific compounds.
matutinal or matutinal
meteoroscope or meteoroscope
microscopist or microscopist
örstund or örstund
orthopist or örthopist
örthopy or örthopy
praxis Here popular will has clearly determined upon parésis.
phosphorous Formerly phosphorous
photogravure
platinum or platinum
plebian
plebianism
pléthoric or plethoric
polygamy
quinine Variously pronounced.
rosédola Commonly pronounced rosedola.
sulphuric Formerly sulphuric
télégrapher or télégrapher Notice that photographer is not
allowed, while télégrapher is used.
télègraphist or télégraphist
télégraphy
télèscopist or télèscopist
télèscopist or télèscopist
télèscopy or télèscopy
trachéa or trachéa
typographer
typographice
typography
vertigo or vértigo
xylógrapher
xylógraphie
xylóphone
zodiacal

To be added:
hegira or hégira
idoll or atoll
cêntral
cêntrum } Contrary to practice.
cêntric
cortical or córtical
schismatic or schismatic
cápillary or capillary
urticant
autopsy or autópsy
These words illustrate not tendencies of the real folk-mind and are, therefore, less suggestive than any other lists. Disputes as to their proper accentuation are carried on by the well-informed. Choice, when made, is that of deliberation on the part of those cognizant of rules, origins, and laws of analogy. As these words become more common, they will grow more interesting. Many of them have already a score, unauthorized accent which is not here indicated.

abacus
doctate
doctin
cétous
agave
amine
angina pêctoris
albumen
alvéolar
anamorphosis
anteponunt
dorist
armillary
asymptote
ataxy
athenaeum
auréola
avatár
benzol
bibliothecal
bipartite
cabal
caffeine
easique
calcinable
camphene
cadutchouc
capucin
catafalque
centiliter or centiliters
cephalic
céphalopod
calcoédony
cicatric
coliportage
columbary or colurnary
cornea
cotylédon
cuniform
curacóa
décaliter or deciliters
déciliter or decilitres
diaseresis
diatom
dithes

elephantiasis
encephalic
endosmose
exosmose

euthanasia or euthanas
exequiae or exequiae
gladulus
gyrifalcon or gypsifelen
hegemony or heligion
heliotypy
inchotive
laryngeal or laryngial
legume
levantine
lithotrity
manganese or manganese
maseter or maseter
masticatory
medicament
mesencephalic
metacrolite or methorolite
necrologic
necrologist
nucléolus
mucupatony or mucupatony
octogenary or octogenary
ophthalmy
orthognathous or orthognathous

pharyngeal
popliteal or popliteal
prothonotary
ptisan
pyrites
quadrimana
racemous
rhizome or rhylome
rubéola
sagittal
scalpel
sequoiae
splenic

talcosé
tantivy or tantivy
theocrasy or theocrasy
trichina
trachodités
typothete or typothete
umbilicus
variolae
vesicatory or vesicator
vocule
These words, mostly from the French, are all in rather common use. They show a struggle between their native accent and the Teutonic accent. Many show great modification of vowel-quantity as well as accent. While the former can not be indicated here, every ear will readily bear witness to the capricious compromises which are effected. We have no definite principles regulating the taking-over of these new words. The list may suggest that the commoner, homelier words are more completely and more rapidly anglicised. These words are also often introduced by newspapers, and persons using them often remain in happy ignorance of their native pronunciation. This may be noticed very markedly of late, owing to the sudden importing of many words connected with automobiles and other racing machines. Sometimes persistent effort and discussion has resulted in establishing a pronunciation more nearly like the original. This may be noticed in such words as dépot. Only one accent is indicated. It is that favored by most authority but, frequently, the least heard.

amour
anchovy
argot
assignat
baccante
baïnigé
bagatelle
ballet
bandoline
bouquet
buffet
bureau or bureau
burséque or burlesque
café or café
carbine
carmagnole
cartel or cartel
cashmere
céntime
chapéau
châtelaine
chimpanzé
chignon
clairvoyance
clairvoyant
cloisonné
cognac
coquetry
cuirass
dépot
dialogue
diván
dulcinea
equerry
équipage
fakir
finance
financier
ferray
fracas
gabardine
gallop
gerrymander
gondola
governante
grum Arabic
hauteur
jackal
jaguar
jonquille
khedive
lasso
magazine
mamma
mandarine
matador
matinée
memoir
minaret
minuet
morphine
naiades
nectarine
negligé
oasis
Oberammergau
ormolu
palette
pantaloune
papyrus
parol
pastel
persiflage
plesance
pomegranate
profie
puissance
pissant
rendezvous
repassee or repartir
reverie
romance
roué
sangreal
sardonyx
seance or seance
signor
sobriquet or sobriquet
tableau
tableau
tablouet
tallyho
tapis or tapiis
tarantula
theatre
tirade
tontine or tontine
toreador
tragedienne
trousseau or troneen
turquoise or turquoise
uropist
vamoose
vaudeville
vendue
vace versa
vignette
viola
virago

These words might be added:

violin
majoret
complaisance or complaisance
chauffeur
automobile
diallage or diallage
mauvette
langpool
silhoulette or silhouette
brigand
dene
courtseau
carmin
NATIVE COMPOUNDS:

The following words are offered without comment:
The list is very incomplete, but may serve to illustrate the many cases of divided usage which occur in words supposed to be accented according to the genius of our language. Nearly all have two accents equally common.

afóresaid
albéit
archángel
archdéacon
archbishop
common-wealth
dándelion
forefather
fréemason
gáinsay
grand-daughter
héarsay
highwayman
ice-cream
langsýne
offspring
órdeal
pícemeal
ránsack
ready-máde
sét-to
short-líved
thanks-giving
theréof
untóward
waist-coat
wayláy
whereof
wherewith
wherewithál
whooping-cough
wind-pipe
yesterday
SUPPLEMENTARY GROUPS: - ACCENTS UNAUTHORIZED BUT OCCASIONALLY HEARD.

These accents seem, upon examination, to be cases of isolated blunders, and are in no sense phases of a general tendency. They are given here because they appear in the book from which the words in this classification were mostly gathered; and because they occasionally suggest obscure analogies. It would be profitable to inquire, in each case, why the speaker came to use the particular accent indicated. Such an investigation might bring to light the fact that the stress now obsolete was once universal, or it might show merely, the individual characteristics of the speaker or a limited community.

absolútism
acádemician
adaptation
admiráble
állegorist
anábasis
árca
árrear
árificer
asséts
béptismal
blasphémous
colón
cóntrictute
décade
defícit
épitome
équipage
équitable
déstate
finité
fragrémentary
illustration
impétus
impious
impiously
impotent
impotentely
indécorum
indústry
inférence
legislative
linóleum
melodécón
mercántile
misciévous
mónarchic
obséquies
octopus
palet	papier
pédastal
pelmèn
philippic
phosphorus
photograph
photogravure
plebian
princess
purulsive
recognize
reticent
tarantula
théâtre
tribunal
vagary
alabaster
alcove
ancestral
anemone
asphalt
avalanche
balcony
camelopard
celibacy
chamois
climacteric
commandant
communist
contour
consol
confessor
corral
corneal
cordillera
demonstrate
demonstrator
desiccate
devastate
discrepancy
discrepant
dyspepsia
endosmosis
essayist
excruciate
exsanguinate
frankincense
fraternal
galaxy
imbecile
infecund
infimical
interocclude
interstice
matutinal
metonymy
parol
philistinism
quandary
sinister
theocracy
trombone
1. Divided usage in accentuation is very prevalent in our language.
2. It seems to be increasing, and more doubts appear to be coming in. Doubts are no longer ignored.
3. The old-fashioned criteria of accentuation, the dictionaries and the pedants, have given place to the judgment and practice of the intelligent people at large. Natural and actual use is the significant feature.
4. Divided usage may arise from several causes:
   a. Ignorance.
   b. Analogy.
   c. Caprice.
   d. Desire for Euphony or the closest accent.
   e. Habitual emphasis in sentence stress.
   f. Rules of compiler and linguists.
5. Each of the groups presented should be subdivided many times for more minute study, and most should be studied individually.
6. Each established rule of accentuation should be tested by actual practice in the case of a representative number of words.

Agattaijeeu Sonna.