

Stress in Lakota

Try saying the following words and mark where the main stress is:

sleepy	geographic
pumpkin	television
afternoon	photo
computer	photography
decide	happy

In English sometimes the stress on a word could change the meaning:

reject (re ^j ect) - refuse to accept (V) <i>He rejected the proposal.</i>	reject (re ^e ject) - something rejected (N) <i>She was a reject from society.</i>
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also: present/present, export/export

In Lakota stress is very important and could also change the meaning of words if said incorrectly.

For this reason it is always marked on the word:

léna - right here	lená - these
ówaŋžila - together	owáŋžila - at ease, quietly
kákhi - in that direction	kakhí - to take smth to sb back there
wáphiyA - to cause sb to be lucky	waphíyA - to cure people

Stress is marked with a ' over a vowel:

á áŋ é í íŋ ó ú úŋ

Practice marking stress with these words:

igmu	mazaska
šun̄ka	šun̄kawakḥ̄ŋ
yamni	čhaŋku
topa	imapuze