

## 4.1 Speaking

### Stress in long words

-----  
**Focus:** *building awareness that the writing system of English is an unreliable guide to pronunciation.*

1. During your studies you will come across lots of long words in English. Long words are especially common in Geography and Science, for example. Very often, you will only be using these words in reading and writing. Sometimes, you may need to say the word. It can help if you know where the *stress* is. (Stress is when you say one part of the word more strongly). Think about the words – photograph and photographer. The chart below shows you where the stress is on the word – as you can see it is not always at the beginning or end, it can be in the middle. Practise saying the two words.

			<b>PHO</b>	to	graph	
		pho	<b>TO</b>	graph	er	

2. Draw up your own chart with seven columns, and with the middle column highlighted.
3. Here is a list of keywords from the Science unit on *Speed, velocity and acceleration*:

**velocity      acceleration      to accelerate      deceleration**

Say the words aloud, and then decide how to write them into the chart. Does your neighbour agree with you? You can check your answers with your teacher and/or with a dictionary. (dictionaries often put /' / before the stressed part of the word).

4. Here is a list of keywords from the Geography unit on *Water and Weather*:

**thermometer      condensation      humidity**  
**precipitation      to evaporate**

Again, say the words out loud, and then put them into your chart. You can check your answers with your teacher and or with a dictionary

5. Remember, every time you learn a new word which is long (often called *polysyllabic* words – lots of syllables) put the word in the chart according to where the stress is, or decide on a way to mark the stress so that you remember the pronunciation of the word.