

- Description** Students practise sentence stress and consider how it can change the meaning of a statement  
**Lesson link** Use this activity after 5c, page 46  
**Time** 20 minutes  
**Extra material** Print out and photocopy the *Different stresses* worksheet for each pair of students

## Instructions

- a Write on the board:

I never drive to work.

Ask SS to say the sentence – they'll almost certainly say it in a 'neutral' way, with normal sentence stress, i.e. I never drive to work.

Then underline *I*:

I never drive to work.

Say this sentence aloud yourself, and ask SS when someone might say it with this sentence stress, e.g. if all their colleagues say they drive to work, and someone wants to stress that they don't.

Then erase the underlining under *I* and underline *drive* instead:

I never drive to work.

Say this sentence aloud and ask SS when someone might use this sentence stress, e.g. if they go on to say *but I often cycle*.

Explain that we can stress almost any word in a sentence to emphasize a particular meaning.

- b Divide SS into pairs and give them a copy of the worksheet. Tell them to say the statements aloud and match them with the meanings, and then to make up three situations.

- c After SS have finished ask them to join another pair (to form groups of four) and compare their answers.

- d Check the answers with the class and drill any sentences SS are having difficulties with.

## Answers

1 a 2 b 1 c 3  
 2 a 3 b 2 c 1  
 3 a 1 b 2 c 3

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *Someone else has just said that they can't.*

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *I didn't think I had enough money, but I do!*

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *I'm not giving it to you – I want you to pay me back.*

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *But I'm not lending 20 dollars to anyone else.*

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *But I can't lend you e.g. 50 dollars.*

I can lend you 20 dollars. – *But I don't have any euros, pounds, etc.*

## Different stresses

Say the statements aloud stressing the underlined words, then match them to their meanings.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> a What <u>time</u> did he say he was <u>coming</u>?</p> <p>b What time did <u>he</u> say he was coming?</p> <p>c <u>What</u> time did he say he was coming?</p>                           | <p>1 I know when she's coming.</p> <p>2 When did he say he'd arrive?</p> <p>3 I can't believe he's coming then!</p>  |
| <p><b>2</b> a Please put <u>everything</u> away if you've finished.</p> <p>b Please put everything <u>away</u> if you've finished.</p> <p>c <u>Please</u> put everything away if you've finished.</p> | <p>1 I've asked you before to tidy up and you still haven't done it!</p> <p>2 I'd like you to tidy up if you've finished.</p> <p>3 Don't leave anything untidy if you've finished. You have a habit of not tidying up very well!</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> a I'll <u>phone</u> you <u>later</u>.</p> <p>b I'll <u>phone</u> <u>you</u> later.</p> <p>c I'll <u>phone</u> you later.</p>  | <p>1 Expect me to call you.</p> <p>2 Please don't phone me.</p> <p>3 I won't email or text.</p>  |

Now make up three situations for this quote using different sentence stresses.

I can lend you 20 dollars.

1

2

3