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| Sentence Stress (Pronunciation): Overview |
| Just as certain syllables are stressed within a word, certain words are stressed within a sentence. In English we usually stress the words at the end of the sentence, because that is where the new information is. By stressing the new information, we tell the listener that this is the important part of what we are saying.  For example:  *My name is Margaret.*  Margaret is the new information, so it is stressed.  We may stress other parts of a sentence, however, if we want to clarify or emphasize something.  For example:  *My* name is Margaret. In this case, the listener has probably confused Margaret  with someone else and she is clarifying that she, not someone else,  is named Margaret.  So by changing the word in a sentence that gets stressed, we can change the meaning of the sentence. |

*A. What is the speaker trying to communicate or clarify in the sentences below?*

1. **I** bought a new dress yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. I **bought**  a new dress yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. I bought a **new** dress yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. I bought a new **dress** yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. I bought a new dress **yesterday**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*B. Practice saying the different variations on the sentence above. Have your partner try to guess which meaning you are communicating.*