

..... weak form

English as a World Language

Today, when English is one of the major languages in the world, it requires an effort of the imagination to realize that this is a relatively recent thing. In Shakespeare's time, for example, only a few million people spoke English, and the language was not thought to be very important by the other nations of Europe, and was unknown to the rest of the world.

English has become a world language because of its establishment as a mother tongue outside England, in all the continents of the world. This exporting of English began in the seventeenth century, with the first settlements in North America. Above all, it is the great growth of population in the United States, assisted by massive immigration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, that has given the English language its present standing in the world.

..... primary stress, ??? possible primary stress

..... secondary stress (in compounds/phrases)

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