

Series 1 – No.4 Enough

Audioscript

Welcome to **Words Alive**. The **Words Alive** series helps with the pronunciation of, and listening to, words and their examples in the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. **Words Alive** is written and recorded by Richard Cauldwell, and brought to you by Cambridge University Press.

Part 1 Today's Word

Today's word is 'enough'. The dictionary gives two entries for 'enough' – we will work with the second one, 'enough' in its adverbial meaning, which is equivalent in meaning to 'sufficiently'. In this meaning 'enough' follows an adjective and is almost always unstressed after the adjective. It is a two syllable word, with the stress on the second syllable 'eNOUGH'. The dictionary tells us that it is used after an adjective, adverb, or verb to mean 'to the necessary degree'.

Part 2 The Examples

There are four examples: as I say them, listen for the word 'enough'. Notice that in all of the examples that it is unstressed.

Example 1

Is the water hot enough yet?

Example 2

I don't think he's really experienced enough for this sort of job.

Example 3

She told me it was brand new and I was stupid enough to believe her.

Example 4

Would you be good enough to take my bag upstairs for me?

In all of these examples, the adjective before 'enough' is stressed, but 'enough' itself is unstressed. So we get 'HOT enough', 'exPERienced enough' 'STUpid enough' and 'GOOD enough'. We are going to work with the second half of Example 3.

Part 3 Practice

To help with both pronunciation and listening, let's work with the third example at different speeds. Have you ever asked somebody a question, been given an answer (here, 'It was brand new'), and then found that answer to be wrong? Afterwards, you are annoyed with yourself for not checking with the person that the answer was correct, and you might say, with two falling tones in two speech units:

Example 3A

// I was STUpid enough //to beLIEVE her //

Now say it in just one speech unit, with three stresses but with just one falling tone starting on the second syllable of 'beLIEVE'. Make sure you still blame yourself, by stressing 'I':

Example 3B

// I was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her //

Now say it in a more matter-of-fact, everyday way by taking the blame off yourself, making 'I' unstressed. So instead of saying 'I WAS' with a very clear 'I', we make 'I' have its most common pronunciation, which is close to an unstressed indefinite article, thus: 'i was'. We will do it at three different speeds:

120, 200, and 300 words per minute.

Example 3C

C1 // i was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her // 120

C2 // i was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her // 200

C3 // i was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her // 300

The last version, at 300 words per minute, may seem too fast for you. But these kinds of speeds are very common in natural speech. Remember it is very common for words to be gabbled, when they are not highlighted. Thus 'I WAS' becomes 'iwas' 'iwas' 'iwas'. And 'enough' is squashed down to 'inuf', 'inuf', 'inuf' between the second syllable of 'stupid' and the first syllable of 'believe' – 'pidinuftobe', 'pidinuftobe', 'pidinuftobe' – 'i was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her'.

Part 4 Pairwork

To end with, let's add a reply from a friend who wants to be helpful and reassuring.

Example 3D

A // i was STUpid enough to beLIEVE her //

B // OH // it's NOT YOUR fault //