



Level: A1, A2

## THE MELON MAZE

**Teaching point:**  
**Pronunciation – stress in 2-syllable nouns**

**Theme: Stress in cognates**

**Activity: Finding a route through a maze**

### PROCEDURE

This activity is best used if some/many of the words in the maze are cognates in your students' L1. For example, it will work very well for students whose mother tongue is Spanish, and probably other languages with a latin ancestry.

1. Choose one word from the maze which is a cognate in your students' L1, and preferably with a different stress pattern. This example is for Spanish. Write on the board:

English: melon

Spanish: melon

Elicit from the students how their pronunciation is different in the two languages (the stress is on the first syllable in English and the second syllable in Spanish).

2. Explain that 90% of English 2-syllable nouns have the stress on the 1st syllable. But not all! There are many exceptions – for example *hotel*.
3. Give out the maze and ask students to find a route through, from the In arrow in the top left to the Out arrow in the bottom right.
  - They can pass through a hexagon if the word in it has the stress on the first syllable – O o
  - They can't pass through a hexagon if the word in it has the stress on the second syllable – o O

### KEY

The correct route is *melon – coffee – salad – lemon – menu – artist – colour – airport – nation – April – minute – insect – model – problem – sofa*.

4. Read out (or play the audio) of the words in the correct path (see key) and get students to repeat. Make sure they put the stress on the first syllable.

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