Placing the Accent

In most words, place the accent on the stem.   When there is no prefix, the first part of the word is the stem and will receive the accent.

Other Accent Patterns

I.   More than two syllable words ending in silent "e"
Cross off the silent e, and count back <u>three</u> <u>vowel</u> sounds.   The accent usually falls on that third syllable.

<p style="text-align:center">3   2   1
D E L -I- C A T E</p>

If you add a suffix to such word, the accent pattern remains the same.
When the same word serves as two different parts of speech, the verb will have the accent on the stem and the noun will be accented on the prefix.

    Verb: re-bél   Noun: réb-el

II.   Suffix "**<u>ity</u>**":
The accent falls always on the syllable just ahead of the "ity".

    re-ál-i-ty

In the plural, these words will read "ities".   The accent will be the same – on the vowel before it.

III.   Suffixes "**<u>ic</u>**" and "**<u>ical</u>**"
The accent falls on the syllable just before either suffix.
    ec-cén-tric   gram-mát-ic-al

IV.   When using the connectives **<u>i</u>**, **<u>u</u>**, **<u>ul</u>**, and **<u>ol</u>** between the stem and suffix of a word, the accent usually falls on the vowel directly ahead of them.
    o-bé-di-ent   ví-o-lent

V.   The suffix "**<u>oon</u>**" always has the accent on it.

    bal-loón   car-toón

VI.   When the suffixes **ti**, **si**, **ci**, and **xi** sound like "sh", the accent is always on the vowel which proceeds the "sh".   If the words end in "-ity", then the accent comes just before the "-ity".

    spé-cial   par-ti-ál-ity

VII.   The accent is always before the "sh" or "zh".
    oc cá sion (shun)   ex pán sion (shun)