Relative Word Stress and Metrical Prominence

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Stress Words

Includes:	Nouns, adjectives, infinitives, participles(, heavy pronouns and adverbs)
Word stress:	primary
Metrical position:	full lift
Exceptions:	Demoted to half-lift to avoid a hypermetric verse where demoting yields a permissible type (typically the third stress word is demoted, yielding D)

Secondary Word Stress

Includes:	The second element in a compound other than a name, e.g. *sele* in *wīnsele* "wine-hall"
Metrical position:	half-lift
Exceptions:	Promoted to full lift where required, e.g. in verses consisting only of the one compound

Tertiary Word Stress (if acknowledged)

Includes:	Derivative suffixes; the middle syllable in *ian*-verbs; the second element in a personal name or in a compound no longer recognized as one. *- Derivative suffixes turn one word into another: -nes makes an adjective into a noun (e.g. halignes "holiness"), -līce turns something into an adverb (e.g. bealdlīce "boldly," etc.).* *- ian-verbs are weak verbs with infinitives like herian ("praise") and preterites like herode; contrast e.g. dēman ("judge"), dēmde, both of which forms lack that medial syllable.* *- Examples of compound elements receiving tertiary stress include the second element in Hrōþgār (personal name) and hlāford (no longer recognized as a compound).*
Metrical position:	half-lift (if acknowledged; or treat as dip)
Exceptions:	Demoted to dip if required to match a known type

Particles

Includes:	Finite verbs, personal and demonstrative pronouns, demonstrative adverbs, some conjunctions
Word stress:	none
Metrical position:	dip
Exceptions:	Promoted to full lift by displacement or alliteration

Proclitics

Includes:	Prepositions, demonstratives, prefixes, copulative conjunctions
Word stress:	none
Metrical position:	dip
Exceptions:	Promoted to full lift by displacement, e.g. *tō* in *him tō* ("to him")

Examples

(1) hūsa sēlest — *Beowulf* 658b (type A1; two stress words)

(2) wlanc Wedera lēod — *Beowulf* 341a (type D2; three stress words, third primary stress demoted to half-lift; resolution)

(3) gān under gyldnum bēage — *Beowulf* 1163a (hypermetric; three stress-words; demoting would not yield a valid D type)

(4) nȳdwracu niþgrim — *Beowulf* 193a (type A2; two compounds whose second elements naturally serve as half-lifts; resolution)

(5) landġemyrcu — *Beowulf* 209b (type A1; compound; secondary word stress promoted to full lift)

(6) wēan ahsodon — *Beowulf* 423b (type D1; tertiary word stress serving naturally as a half-lift)

(7) andswarode — *Beowulf* 258b (type D1; compound; secondary word stress promoted to full lift; tertiary word stress serving as a half-lift)

(8) seomode on sāle — *Beowulf* 302a (type A1; tertiary word stress demoted to dip because A does not permit a dip and halflift side by side)

(9) Hrōðgār maþelode — *Beowulf* 371a (type D*1; tertiary word stress of *gār* demoted to dip because D does not permit a halflift here)