

Chapter 3

WHICH LETTERS ARE CUT?

1 Cutting as far as possible

This chapter describes which letters used in the TO forms of words can be cut without undermining (rather, the cut improves) the regularity of the sound-symbol correspondence. In most cases it is clear which letters need to be removed: for instance, the B in *doubt* (Rule 1), the last vowel in *principal/principle* ([Rule 2](#)), and one C and one M in *accommodate* ([Rule 3](#)). In a few cases, however, the proposed cuts entail disadvantages that may be thought to outweigh the advantages. This chapter aims to explore the potential for cutting out letters to the maximum, but explains the disadvantages that occasionally arise. It must be left to the discretion of adult learners not to make cuts which they find excessive, but if CS were to be formally implemented as a standard spelling system for teaching literacy skills to beginners, the implications of the more radical or controversial cuts recommended in this Handbook would need further consideration, with a view to excluding some of them, at least initially, from the system.

2 Illustration by progressive use of CS spellings

As each pattern of letter cutting is explained, the CS forms concerned will from then on be used in the Handbook, so that the effect may be observed. At first, therefore, only a few CS forms occur, but they become steadily more common, until by the end of [Chapter 5](#) the full CS simplified orthography is seen in operation. This progressive introduction of CS means that, early on, many partial CS forms are found, with some redundant letters cut, but others not. For example, Rule 1 cuts initial W from TO *written*, giving *ritten*; but [Rule 2](#) later cuts the E, so that *rittn* is then the form used until [Rule 3](#) simplifies the double T, producing the final CS form, *ritn*. The spellings used in Chapter 3 are therefore often not final CS, but intermediate, illustrating the effects of cutting step by step. To check the final CS form of any word, readers should refer to the dictionary in [Part III](#).

3 The Cutting Rules

Of the three Cutting Rules, readers will notice that Rule 1, which cuts letters irrelevant to pronunciation, occupies as much space as Rules 2 and 3 together. This is partly because in TO every letter of the alphabet except (arguably) Q, R, V, Z sometimes meets the Rule 1 criterion of irrelevance to

pronunciation, several letters doing so in a large number of different contexts, and a long catalogue is therefore needed to cover the many words and patterns involved; but Rule 1 is also more complex because it discusses numerous isolated, doubtful cases (eg, whether or not the unique TO form *choir* can be cut to CS *coir*). Rules 2 and 3 on the other hand may cut as many letters from a typical text as Rule 1, but as the patterns are fewer and more comprehensive, they can be described more succinctly.

As explained in [Chapter 2](#), the learner is not expected to memorize the many patterns presented in this chapter. Chapter 3 and the following two are designed for reference, providing a detailed catalogue and analysis of cutting patterns. The [exercises in Part II](#) on the other hand will be found to provide not merely learning material with copious examples, but a much more transparent survey of the patterns themselves. The briefest overview, with paradigms for most of the different patterns, is however found on pages 2-15, in the '[Contents & Catalogue](#)' preceding Chapter 1.

4 Presentation

Each cutting pattern is headed in bold type with a schematic, generalized description of the cut being made. Examples and explanations then follow, with any TO model for the cut form in brackets. A typical item under Rule 1, Letter A, would then be EA > E: *head/hed* (*bed*). Forms preceded by an asterisk (eg, **pencil*) are inadmissible, while those followed by an asterisk are exempt from the normal cutting rules (eg, *comma**).

Rule 1: LETTERS IRRELEVANT TO PRONUNCIATION

For Rule 1, the letters and their redundant occurrences are listed below alphabetically, letter by letter. Within the entries for the more complex letters, the various patterns are also listed alphabetically (though sometimes under broader sub-headings, such as 'initial', 'final', 'postvocalic' etc), so that any particular spelling pattern can be quickly located.

Redundant A**A.1 AE > E**

A.1.1 AE > E: *anaemia* > *anemia* The letters AE (formerly often written as the ligature Æ) in words derived from Greek or Latin, such as *encyclopaedia*, *mediaeval* and many medical terms (eg, *anaemia*, *anaesthetic*, *faeces*, *haemorrhage*) are now increasingly written without A, especially in America (and generally in French). CS follows this trend, which gives *encyclopedia* (cf French *encyclopédie*), *medieval*, *anemia* (cf French *anémie*), *anesthetic*, *feces*, *hemorrhage*, etc.

A.1.2 AER- > AR-, ER-? The root AER- as in *aerial*, *aeroplane*, etc, clearly contains a redundant vowel letter, as seen by comparison with A in *area* and E in *sombrero*; but whether the A or the E should be regarded as redundant is unclear. Forms such as **aroplane*, **eroplane* are both potentially misleading when set beside, for instance, *arid*, *aroma*, *era*, *erotic*, and since initial AER- is in any case a rare spelling pattern, it is felt better to leave it uncut. It might furthermore be preserved in these cases as a possible model for later spelling regularization of this sound, with forms like *air*, *bear*, *spare* being respelt *aer*, *baer*, *spaer*; but such changes are not contemplated for CS.

A.2 EA > E

A.2.1 Final EA > E in monosyllables: *tea/te* *Flea*, *pea*, *plea*, *sea*, *tea* etc are cut by analogy with TO *be*, *he*, *me*, *she*, *we*, giving CS *fle*, *pe*, *ple*, *se*, *te* (cf E.1.2.1 for *see* — *se*, Y.2 for *key* — *ke* etc). Some users hesitate at the brevity of the resulting forms, especially when suffixes are added, as in the plural (TO *seas*, CS *ses*) and in compounds (CS *penut*, *seside*, *tecup* may appear to have short E as in *pet*, *set* etc); but the cut forms (*se*, *ses* etc) are recommended for their economy and predictability, enabling TO *me*, *tea*, *fee*, *key* to align as CS *me*, *te*, *fe*, *ke*. Parallel in other languages are *te* in the Scandinavian languages, *té* in Spanish, and *tè* in Italian.

A.2.2 EA > E-E: long E doubly indicated

A.2.2.1 *peace* > *pece* By cutting the redundant A, CS aligns TO *peace* with rhymes *fleece*, *Greece*, which lose a medial E (see E.2.1.3), and *niece*, *piece*, which lose I (see I.1.3). CS then writes *flece*, *Grece* (cf *Grecian*), *nece*, *pece*.

A.2.2.2 -EASE > -ESE: *ease* > *ese* The long E in *cease*, *crease*, *decease*, *grease*, *increase*, *lease*, *release* (with voiceless S) and *disease*, *ease*, *please*, *tease* (with voiced S) is shown twice in TO, by the digraph EA and by 'magic' E. The TO ending of *these*, *diocese*, *Chinese* provides a model for CS *cese* (cf French *cesser*), *crese*, *decese*, *grese* *increse*, *relese*, *disese*, *ese*, *plese*, *tese*. Cutting *ease* to *ese* requires *easy* to be written *esy*, which some users find disturbing. The above cuts do not distinguish between voiced/voiceless S in *ese*, *cese* etc, although this could be done in a number

of ways. Most simply, the A could be kept in the voiceless forms (*cease* etc), with only the voiced forms allowed to align with *these*, *Chinese* (*ese*, *plese* etc). If letters were to be substituted, the voiceless forms could be spelt with SS (*ceass*, *creass*, *releass* etc), while S was retained for the voiced forms (*ese*, *plese* etc). Alternatively, Z could be substituted in the voiced forms (*theze*, *Chineze*, *dioceze*, *diseze*, *eze* [also *ezy*], *pleze*), with S left in the voiceless forms (*cese*, *crese* etc). However, since TO does not distinguish voiced/voiceless S in the -EASE words, and since TO forms with -EESE (*geese*, *cheese*, E.2.1.3) can also be reduced to -ESE, the latter is recommended for all the above words, leaving the /s, z/ distinction to be introduced, if desired, by a later reform (see [Chapter 6](#), §1.4).

A.2.2.3 -EATHE > -ETHE: *breathe* > *brethe* The TO verbs *breathe*, *sheathe*, *wreathe* also have their long vowels doubly indicated, and lose A, to become *brethe*, *shethe*, *wrethe* (contrast the CS nouns *breth* *sheath*, *wreath*; and cf E.2.1.3 for CS *sethe* from TO *seethe*). The final E in *brethe* etc may be taken also to show voiced TH, which further distinguishes the pronunciation of *breth/brethe*, *wreath/wrethe*. It is perhaps regrettable that the noun/verb pairs *sheath/shethe*, *wreath/wrethe* come to spell their vowels differently; but CS does not allow the kind of solution to this anomaly which a more radical reform might suggest (eg, *shieth/shiethe*, etc).

A.2.2.4 -EAVE > -EVE: *leave* > *leve* This spelling occurs in *bereave*, *cleave*, *eaves*, *heave*, *leave*, *weave*, but TO offers a simpler model in *eve*, *breve*, *Steve*, and CS therefore writes *bereve*, *cleve*, *eves*, *heve*, *leve*, *weve*. (E.2.1.3 and I.1.3 show how by similarly cutting the patterns of *sleeve*, *receive*, *believe* to *sleve*, *receve*, *beleve* some notoriously troublesome variants of English spelling are aligned.) The loss of A in these words also brings them closer to related forms such as *bereft*, *cleft*, *left*, *weft*, and provides a direct parallel with *breth* > *brethe*. TO *cleaver* becomes CS *clever*, but since TO *clever* becomes CS *clevr* by [Rule 2](#), the two words remain distinct. The plural of *leaf*, *sheaf* retains the A of the singular, giving CS *leavs*, *sheavs*, not **leves*, **sheves* (cf E.1.1.15).

A.2.3 -EA- > -E- pronounced as short E

A.2.3.1 -EA- > -E-: *head* > *hed* There are in TO about 50 mostly common base-words (and many more derivatives) spelt with EA pronounced as short E (the A being redundant): *bread*, *breadth*, *breakfast*, *breast*, *breath*, *cleanliness*, *cleanse*, *dead*, *deaf*, *dealt*, *death*, *dread*, *dreamt*, *endeavour*, *feather*, *head*, *health*, *heather*, *heaven*, *heavy*, *instead*, *jealous*, *lead* (the metal), *leant*, *leapt*, *leather*, *leaven*, *meadow*, *meant*, *measure*, *peasant*, *pheasant*, *pleasure*, *read* (past tense), *ready*, *realm*, *spread*, *steady*, *stealth*, *sweat*, *thread*, *threat*, *treachery*, *tread*, *treasure*, *wealth*, *weapon*, *weather*, *zealous*. The standard use of E, EA (as in *bed*, *bead*) gives CS *bred*, *bredth*,

breakfast, brest, breth, clenliness, clense, ded, def, delt, deth, dred, dremt, hed, helth, hevy, insted, led, lent, lept, ment, red, redy, relm, spred, stedy, stelth, swet, thred, thret, tred, welth; the other words in the TO list above also lose A, but their CS forms are not shown here as they lose other letters too (eg, *jealous* > *jelus*). (cf French *levain, mesure, trésor*; Welsh *ffasant, mesur, pleser*) Two particularly useful effects of this cut are firstly to align the metal *led* with the homophonous past tense of the verb *to lead* (*he led*), rather than, as in TO, with the infinitive; and secondly, the past tense of *to read* is aligned with its homophone, the colour *red*, rather than with the infinitive and present tense of the verb, as confusingly occurs in TO. A slight complication arises from cutting those of the above words in which the EA is followed by a single consonant and a vowel (*heady, ready, steady, sweaty, treading* etc), in that, by TO patterns of sound-symbol correspondence, the CS form may appear to suggest a long E vowel rather than the short one; thus *redy, swety* might be misread as *reedy, sweety*. To prevent any such ambiguity, it would be possible to double the consonants and write *heddy* (cf *eddy*) and *swetty* (cf *jetty*). However, E rarely has its long value in such positions (long E is usually spelt with a digraph), so such misreading would be unlikely; furthermore, the reduction of most -ING suffixes to CS -NG enables final CS to distinguish the endings of *tredng* and *preceding*, the latter keeping its full -ING ending. This pattern is discussed further in Sections 2 and 3 of the present chapter (Rule 2 on inflections, Rule 3 on simplifying doubled consonants, §2.5), and we will here simply note the recommended final CS forms *hedy, redy, stedy, swetng, dredng, hedng, spredng, thredng, tredng*.

A.2.3.2 -EAR- > -ER-: *earn* > *ern* A few words with -EAR- pronounced as ER also lose A: *earl, early, earn, earnest, earth, heard, hearse, learn, pearl* become CS *erl, erly, ern* (cf *fern*), *ernest* (cf the name *Ernest*), *erth* (cf *berth*), *herd, herse* (cf *verse*), *lern* (cf *tern*), *perl* (cf French *perle*).

A.2.4 EA > E pronounced as long A

A.2.4.1 -EA- > -E-: *break* > *brek* More controversial than the above EA > E cuts are three words with EA pronounced as AY: *break, great, steak* (also biblical *yea* and some Irish names such as *Reagan, Shea, Yeats*). CS can cut the A and write *brek, gret, stek* (cf French *biftek*, Italian *bistecca* for *beafsteak*); but some writers may prefer the TO forms, although they misleadingly suggest that *break/beak, great/eat* rhyme. CS asks not whether *brek, gret, stek* are ideal spellings, but whether they offer a sufficient improvement on *break, great, steak* to justify cutting the A. Is it better for *great* to appear to rhyme with *bet* (whose vowel is phonetically closer) or with *beat*? CS writes *brekfast* in any case by Rule A.2.3.1. This *Handbook* will henceforth use the phonetically closer, more economical forms without A, but a sounder, if more radical, solution (not proposed for CS) would be to respell these words with another vowel digraph; possibilities include

replacing the A by I to give *breik, steik, greit* (cf TO *eight, freight, weight* which become CS *eit, weit, freit*), or else reversing the EA with the digraph AE to give *braek, graet, staek*, or else (visually more disturbing than EI or AE) using the common TO digraph AI to give *braik, grait, staik*.

A.2.4.2 -EAR > -ER: *pear* > *per* Especially confusing in TO are the *tear* words, of which five (*bear, pear, swear, tear, wear*) conflict with the standard pronunciation of the rest (*appear, clear, dear, drear, ear, fear, gear, hear, near, rear, shear, smear, spear, tear, year*), with *tear* itself pronounced either way according to meaning (contrast *teardrop, wear & tear*). These can be distinguished in CS by cutting the A from the anomalous five (*ber, per, swer, ter, wer*). Some users feel that *bear* etc should not appear to rhyme with *her*, and the merger of TO *wear/were* as CS *wer* may seem even more questionable; but in some accents *bear, her* rhyme anyway, and the merged CS form *ther* for TO *their/there* (cf E.1.3, I.1.4) establishes a coherent set of words with this pattern of symbol-sound correspondence. This regularity is recommended as economical and much preferable to the irregularity of TO. More radical would be to use TO *their* as a model and respell the *bear*-group as *beir, peir, sweir, teir*, but TO *wear* respelt as *weir* would conflict with TO *weir*; another radical alternative would be to write *baer, paer, swaer, taer, waer* (cf A.1.2, *aerial*), but such forms are not proposed for CS.

A.3 -OA- > -O-

A.3.1 *broad* > *brod* Just as CS recommends cutting the TO spellings *break, great, steak* to *brek, gret, stek* to give a less anomalous but still imperfect spelling, so it can cut the A in *broad* which in TO suggests a rhyme with *road*. Clearly the A is anomalous, but it may be objected that CS *brod* is no better, as it falsely appears to rhyme with *rod*. Arguments in favour of *brod* are: O often has the AW value (eg, as before R in *or, bore, story* and in some accents before other letters too — Scots pronounce *cot* as *caught*, *offal* as *awful*, and some speakers give the O in *lost, off, ought* the same value as in *broad*), and the OA of *broad* is phonetically closer to the O of *rod* than to the OA of *road* anyway. As with *brek* etc, we must ask not whether *brod* is an ideal spelling, but whether it is better than *broad*. With A, *broad* is uniquely anomalous and inevitably leads to mispronunciation by foreign speakers; without A, *brod* conforms to some existing patterns and is more economical; it is therefore recommended for CS.

A.3.2 -OAL > -OL? An O before L is widely pronounced long (*bold, bolt, soldier, control*), and this model might enable *coal, foal, goal, shoal* to cut A, giving **col, *fol* etc (cf U.3.3 for TO *soul* cut to CS *sol*, also W.2 for TO *bowl* cut to CS *bol* and E.1.1.8.2 for objections to cutting *dole, mole, pole, sole, vole* to **dol* etc; *droll, roll, stroll* etc become *drol, rol, strol* by

Rule 3). Historically there has been much uncertainty over these patterns, with *coal/cole* formerly alternative spellings. Yet although cutting A in -OAL would help align the TO variants *foal, pole, roll, soul, bowl*, there are difficulties: TO *col, doll* (CS *dol*) with short O show a different sound-symbol correspondence, and -ING forms such as *coaling* might be unrecognizable as **colng*. It is therefore recommended that when TO represents the long value of O with the pattern OAL or with ‘magic’ E, no cut should be made, so that TO *coal, pole* and parallel spellings are unchanged, although *soul, bowl, roll* etc are cut. A more radical reform than CS might, however, suggest the unambiguous ‘German’ digraph OH for the long O here, giving *cohl, pohl, sohl, bohl*, etc.

A.3.3 -OAR > -OR: *coarse* > *corse* CS can cut A from words containing OAR by deeming them to have the vowel sound of OR: *oar, board, coarse, hoarse* are then written *or, bord, corse, horse*. However, pronunciation varies, and some users may prefer to keep *or/oar, horse/hoarse, coarse/course* etc distinct.

A.3.4 LOATH > LOTH: *loathe* > *lothe* CS cuts A from *loath, loathe* by analogy with *loth, both, clothe* to give *loth, lothe*.

A.4 -ICALLY > -ICLY: *basically* > *basicly* In TO most adjectives ending in -IC add -ALLY to form their adverbs (*basic* > *basically*). However, *public* does not do so, and final CS adopts the pattern of *publicly* for the TO -ICALLY words too, giving *basicly, chronically, domestically, enthusiastically* etc. In fact, after CS [Rule 2](#) has harmonized endings as in *musical, simple* to give *musicl, simpl*, CS aligns several variant patterns by which TO forms adverbs (TO *publicly, basically, musically, simply*); the CS rule is that adverbs are formed by adding -LY to the adjective (or just -Y if the adjective already ends in -L), giving CS *publicly, basicly, musicly, simply* (final E is still dropped as in TO: *noble* > *nobly*). In this section of Chapter 3 adverbs based on -IC words will henceforth be written -ICLY (*basicly*), but -AL words will still write their adverbs -ALLY (eg, *naturally, normally*) until Rule 2 (Category 1, 1.1.L.A) is applied, giving *natrllly, normlly*; [Rule 3](#) (5.2.1.LL) then simplifies the LL to give CS *natrly, normly*, to achieve final, full alignment with *publicly*.

A.5 Miscellaneous: *cocoa* > *coco* The letter A in *aisle, ay, aye, beauty, cocoa, quay* is anomalous and is cut (*isle, y, beauty, coco, quy*, though final CS makes further cuts in some of these). CS also prefers the shorter form *bazar* to its longer TO alternative *bazaar*, and if we pronounce *restaurant* with only two syllables, we can cut the AU to give *restrant*. TO *carriage, marriage* align with TO *vestige* without A, as *carrige, marrige*. The common American reduction of *toward(s)* to a single syllable could suggest a CS form *tord(s)*

Redundant B

B.1 Short vowel +MB > +M: *dumb* > *dum* Silent final B occurs in a number of words after a short vowel +M, with the B in those marked † below inserted by analogy although never pronounced and etymologically unfounded: *aplomb*, *bomb*, *crumb*† (Samuel Johnson's 1755 dictionary gave *crum* as an alternative to *crumb*), *dumb*, *jamb*, *lamb*, *limb*†, *numb*†, *plumb*, *succumb*, *thumb*†. CS writes these words with final M: *aplom*, *bom* (cf *from*), *crum*, *dum* (cf *sum*; TO already has *dumfound* and *dummy* without B), *plum* (cf Welsh *plwm* 'led metal') etc. But B must be kept in *bombard*, *crumble* etc, where it is pronounced. Parallel forms ending in M (*ram*, *dim* etc) double the M before -ING in TO (*ramming*, *dimming*), but by CS Rule 2 merely add -NG (*ramng*, *dimng*); the same pattern applies after the loss of final B in verbs ending in TO -MB, giving *bomng*, *lamng*, *plumng*, *succumng*, *thumng*. (For further discussion of this question, see [Rule 2](#), §2.NG on cutting -ING, and [Rule 3](#), §3.2 on simplifying doubled consonants.)

B.2 -BT > -T: *debt* > *det* Silent, medial B occurs in *debt*, *doubt*, *subtle*, although these words were earlier written without B. CS writes: *det* (cf French *dette*, and rhyming *let*), *dout* (cf French *doute*, and rhyming *out*) and (after applying Rule 2) *sutl*.

B.3 No cut in long vowel +MB: *comb* When final -MB follows a long vowel as in *climb*, *comb*, *tomb*, *womb*, CS keeps the silent B, as it has the same function as 'magic' E. Thus *tomb* is not cut to **tom*, nor must *climb* appear to rhyme with *him*. Respelling, perhaps as *clym*, *cohm* (or *coam*), *toom*, *woom* (or even *tuum*, *wuum*, or *twm*, *wwm*), would resolve the problem, but such radical changes are not envisaged for CS (see [Chapter 6](#), §1.3.2 for further discussion of *clym* for *climb*).

Redundant C

C.1 -CK > -K: see [Rule 3](#) Although the C in CK is effectively redundant and so normally cut, the CK digraph will be treated as a doubled consonant, equivalent to CC or KK, and its loss of C is therefore discussed in Section 3 of this chapter, under Rule 3, along with the simplification of all other doubled consonants.

C.2 -CQ- > -Q-: *acquit* > *aquit* Redundant C occurs in the digraph CQ (*acquaint*, *acquiesce*, *acquire*, *acquit*, *lacquer*), and cutting then produces *aquaint* (cf *aquatic*), *aquiesce*, *aquire* (cf *aquiline*), *aquit* (and, after other cuts, *laqr*). See also [Rule 3](#) (§4.1, Note 3).

C.3 SC- > S-: *descend* > *desend* After S, the letter C is often redundant before E, I, Y (in *scent*, *scissors*, *scythe* it was even inserted without etymological justification): *adolescent*, *ascetic*, *descend* (contrast *descant*), *disciple* (contrast *disco*), *miscellaneous*, *muscle* (despite *muscular*; but cf *mussel*), *nascent*, *scene*, *scent*, *sceptre* (contrast *sceptic*, *septic*), *science*, *scissors*, *scythe*, *viscera*. CS writes *asetic*, *desend*, *disiple*, *nasent*, *sene*, *sent*, *sience*, *sythe* (and, after other cuts, *adlesnt*, *mislaneus*, *musl* [for both *muscle*, *mussel*], *septr*, *sisrs*, *visra*). But after a short stressed vowel and immediately before another vowel letter, as in *resuscitate* and in words ending in -SCE (eg, TO *acquiesce*, *coalesce*, *effervesce*, *reminisce*), the C is needed, exactly as SS is in these circumstances (see [Rule 3](#), §2.4SS) — such forms as **coales* or **reminise* would be quite misleading. (After [Rule 2](#) has introduced a following consonant, the C can be cut in the normal way, giving final CS *adlesnt*, *aquiesnt*, *coalesd*, *remnisng*.)

C.4 SCH > SH: *schist* > *shist* In various (often German or Yiddish) words with initial SCH- pronounced as SH, the C can be cut, giving eg, *meershaum*, *shist*, *shmaltz*, *shnapps*, *shnitzel*, *shwa*, unless priority were given to retaining the international spelling of such words. *Schedule* has the problem that it would become *shedule* by British pronunciation, but *scedule* by American pronunciation as recommended by Noah Webster; for the sake of uniformity it is therefore recommended the initial SCH- of *schedule* be left uncut (cf O.4.2 for a similar Anglo-American dilemma over TO *route*). (See E.1.1.8.3 for cutting to *schedul*.) *Schism* could be cut to *sism*, *shism* or *scism*, according to an agreed pronunciation.

C.5 -XC- > -X-: *except* > *exept* Cutting C in *exceed*, *excel*, *except*, *excerpt*, *excess*, *excise*, *excite* produces CS *exeed*, *exel*, *exept*, *exerpt*, *exess*, *exise*, *exite*. It may be objected that the C here serves to show that the X is pronounced as voiceless /ks/, rather than as voiced /gz/ (*except/exempt* for instance often contrast voiceless/voiced X); but voicing is already so variable without C in TO (*execute* may have voiceless X, but in *executor* the X may be voiced) that cutting C after EX- may be seen rather as a helpful simplification. Furthermore, morphemic S was lost after X in Latin before the pattern entered English and is therefore not found in *exist* (despite *consist*, *persist*, *resist* etc), *expect* (despite *aspect*, *inspect*, *respect*), *expatiate* (despite *spatial*), *expire* (despite *conspire*, *inspire*, *perspire*, *respire*), *extinguish*, *exert* (contrast *desert*), *exude*, *exult* (contrast *insult*, *result*), and by this analogy CS need not keep C in *exite* (despite *incite*, *recite* etc) either. The final CS form of TO *excellent* is *exlnt*. See also [Rule 3](#) (§4.1, Note 3).

C.6 Silent C is cut from *victuals*, *yacht* (final CS *vittls*, *yat*). The alternative TO form *tsar* is preferred to *czar*, as better indicating the sound and as a more exact transcription of the Russian spelling.

C.7 Retaining C as SH: *conscience* > *concience* In a number of words C is associated with S, together representing the sound of SH, and the possibility can be considered of cutting either S or C from TO *conscience*, *conscious*, *crescendo*, *fascist*, *fuchsia*, *luscious*. Since C already has the value of SH in some words (eg, *ocean*, *musician*, *ancient*, *suspicion*, *delicious*), that might be regarded as another standard value of C, perhaps with a view to a longer term reallocation of the values of C which could transfer its two main values to K and S and keep SH as its sole unambiguous value (steps in this direction are taken under C.8, C.9, below; see also [Chapter 6](#), §1.3.2). See under S.5 for discussion of the CS cut of S from *conscience*, *conscious*, etc.

C.8 S preferred to C: *defence* > *defense* When alternative (often American) forms use S, CS prefers them to forms with C: *defense* (cf also French *défense*), *license*, *mortise*, *offense* (cf French *offense*), *practise* (for TO *practice*, but with final CS *practis*), *pretense*; earlier *expen* is now *expense* in TO. We may, however, hesitate in the case of American *vise* for British *vice*(the tool), insofar as it conflicts with the voiceless/voiced C/S alternation of *advice*/*advise*, etc.

C.9 K preferred to C: *disc* > *disk* CS prefers unambiguous (often American) K to ambiguous C where alternative forms with K already exist in TO: *ankylosis*, *disk*, *leukemia*, *mollusk*, *skeptic* rather than *anchylosis*, *disc*, *leuchaemia*, *mollusc*, *sceptic*.

C.10 -CTI- or -XI-: *connection* or *connexion*? For discussion of the -CTI-/-XI alternatives, see X.

C.11 Silent ‘magic’ C retained: *indict* Silent C has a ‘magic’, lengthening effect on the preceding I in *indict*, and would have to be kept, unless the word were respelt *indy*t (perhaps by extending the IG > Y substitution rule explained in [Chapter 4](#) and also discussed in [Chapter 6](#), 1.3.2). TO *indite* has a different meaning.

Redundant D

D.1 -DG- > -J-: see [Chapter 4](#) The digraph -DG- serves as a kind of doubled soft G after a short vowel (*badge*, *ledge*, *bridge*, *lodge*, *budge*, *gadget*, *porridge*, *dodgem*, *cudgel*, *judgment*). However, if soft G is always spelt J in CS (see Chapter 4), the D is redundant and can be cut, resulting (after other cuts) in *baj*, *lej*, *brij*, *loj*, *buj*, *gajet*, *porij*, *dojm*, *cujl*, *jujmnt*. Until J is substituted for DG, the D will be kept in this digraph.

D.2 ADJ- > AJ-: *adjust* > *ajust* In initial ADJ- (*adjacent*, *adjective*,

adjoin, adjourn, adjudicate, adjust, adjutant) the sound of the D is already represented in the following J (as shown by the phonetic representation of the sound as /dʒ/), and is cut to give *ajacent, ajective, ajoin, ajourn, ajudicate, ajust, ajutant* (cf *ajar*). French, it will be noted, already uses the forms: *ajourner, ajuster*. See also [Rule 3](#) (§4.1, Note 3).

D.3 -D- beside -N-: *handkerchief* > *hankerchief* In a few words (*handkerchief, handsome, sandwich, Wednesday*) D is commonly unpronounced next to N and can then be cut, giving *hankerchief, handsome, sanwich, wenesday* (final CS *hankrchief, hansm, wensday*).

Redundant E, the most commonly cut letter when converting TO to CS, may occur in final position (discussed in Subsection 1, below), in medial, or, occasionally, initial position (Subsection 2), and in inflections (Subsection 3).

E.1 Redundant final E

E.1.1 After consonants.

E.1.1.1 *the* > *th* The economy of writing the most common word in English as *th* is attractive, but the reduction tends to grate with new readers of CS, and some users feel that its pronunciation demands E. However, if *sea, see, key* etc are cut to *se, se, ke* (see A.2.1, E.1.2.1, Y.2), it would be useful for *th/be* not to suggest a rhyme, as *be/the* misleadingly do in TO. It is worth recalling that in 16th century writing a phrase such as TO *the other* could be compressed to *thother*.

E.1.1.2 TO alternatives: *axe* > *ax* Some alternative spellings with and without final E are already found in TO, the shorter form especially in America. Where TO may write *axe, adze, caviare, Cypriote, preterite, ptomaine, stye* (cf E.1.2.5), CS prefers *ax* (American; cf *tax*), *adz* (American), *caviar, Cypriot, preterit, ptomain, sty*. Similarly CS prefers American *program* to *programme*, and would prefer the SS endings of *carcass, premiss* to the alternatives with final E (*carcase, premise*), if E.1.1.13 below did not align these words with *canvas* (*carcas, premis*).

E.1.1.3 O with short U-value + consonant +E: *come* > *com* Words having O with a short U-value lose misleading final E: *com, som* (cf *company, home*), *don, non* (cf *son*), *dov, glov, lov* (contrast *move, drove*). Words ending in suffix -SOME (eg, *awesome*) similarly lose this E (final CS *awsm*).

E.1.1.4 -FE > -F: *carafe* > *caraf* This ending occurs in *carafe, giraffe*, which are cut to *caraf, giraff* (final CS *jiraf*).

E.1.1.5.1 -DGE > -DG > -J: see [Chapter 4](#) (See D3 and Chapter 4 for DG > J substitution.) Redundant -E is cut after DG as in *badge*,

ledge, bridge, lodge, judge, knowledge, porridge (cf TO *Bridgnorth, acknowledgment, judgment* with DG without following E).

E.1.1.5.2 -GE > -J: see [Chapter 4](#) If, as is suggested in Chapter 4, CS always substitutes J for soft G, final -E is cut from word-final TO -GE, unless it has ‘magic’ function indicating a preceding long vowel. Final -E is therefore kept in *waje, enraje, besieje, oblije, huje* etc, but cut from words such as *language, village, privilege, vestige*, giving *languaj, villaj, privilej, vestij* (final CS *beseje, vilaj, privlej*).

E.1.1.6 -GUE > -G: league > leag Several polysyllabic words ending in British TO -OGUE are written just -OG in America and therefore also in CS: *analog, catalog, demagog, dialog, epilog, monolog, pedagog, synagog*, etc. Similarly, *league, colleague, meringue, tongue* become *leag, colleag, mering, tong* (ambiguity between TO *tongs/tongues*, both spelt *tongs* in CS, would be clarified by the context). Final (‘magic’) -E is not cut when the preceding vowel has long value, as in *vague, fatigue, intrigue, vogue, fugue*, although respelling of soft G with J (see [Chapter 4](#)) can allow the U to be cut (see U.2.1), giving CS *vage, fatige, intrige, voge, fuge* (contrast soft G respelt J in CS *paje, prestije, oblije, huje*).

E.1.1.7 Consonant +LE > consonant +L: little > littl Unless the final -E is ‘magic’, indicating that the preceding vowel is long, CS cuts it in this position, giving *eatabl, edibl, solubl, doubl, uncl, tickl, beabl, paddl, muffl, eagl, toggl, principl, appl, steopl, wrestl, beetl, littl, dazzl* (preceding double consonants in these words are subsequently simplified by [Rule 3](#)). But the long A, I, U in *able, maple, bible, rifle, noble, scruple* etc require the ‘magic’ -E to be kept, as does the long E in CS *peple*. Final syllabic -L will at first seem strange in English, but examples of its use elsewhere may reassure: it is seen in some German forms (eg, *dirndl, Lendl*), in Welsh (eg, *trestl, posibl*), in Old English (Anglo-Saxon *aepl* ‘apple’) and in various other languages such as Arabic and Icelandic. The use of final syllabic -L provides a model for cutting many other endings under [Rule 2](#), as when TO *apple/chapel, principal/principle* align as *appl* (by [Rule 3](#) CS *apl*)/*chapl* and *principl*.

E.1.1.8 Vowel +-LE > vowel +-L

E.1.1.8.1 -ILE > American -L: virile > viril Those (eg, Americans) who pronounce *hostel/hostile, missal/missile* alike, and give the same ending to *agile, docile, fertile, fragile, futile, infantile, juvenile, mobile, servile, sterile, tactile, tensile, textile, virile, versatile, volatile*, etc may wish to cut final -E from such words (cf *fossile* as earlier spelling of *fossil*), giving *agil, docil, fertil, fragil, futil, hostil, infantil, juvenil, missil, mobil, servil, steril, tactil, tensil, textil, viril, versatil, volatil*. (By [Rule 2](#), many of these

words lose -I- as well, giving eg, CS *fertl, infantl, servl, versatl*, etc.) These cuts are unlikely to appeal to speakers with British pronunciation, for whom the final syllable of these words rhymes with *mile*.

E.1.1.8.2 -OLE not cut to -OL: *pole* See A.3.2 above for discussion of the possible reduction of the patterns in TO *coal, pole, roll, soul, bowl* to the minimal -OL pattern, as in *control*. It is there explained why the pattern of *dole, mole, pole, role, sole, vole* should not lose final -E.

E.1.1.8.3 -ULE > -UL: *module* > *modul* The broadly similar pronunciation of words ending in -UAL (*actual*, etc) and -ULE (*module*, etc) can be shown in CS by cutting both endings to -UL, giving *modul* and by [Rule 2](#) (§1.6.3 etc) *actul*. Other -ULE endings occur in TO *globule, ridicule, schedule*, which then become CS *globul, ridicul, schedul*. TO *annul** is the only polysyllabic form already ending in -UL, and it remains anomalous — see Rule 2, §1.6.3.XV.3.XUL.

E.1.1.9 -NE > -N: *destine* > *destin* Words with final -INE sounded as -IN such as TO *destine, determine, discipline, doctrine, engine, examine, famine, feminine, genuine, heroine, imagine, intestine, jasmine, masculine, medicine, urine* lose the -E, giving *destin, determin, disiplin, doctrin, engin* (cf French *engin*), *examin, famin, feminin* (cf French *féminin*), *genuin, imagin, heroin, intestin, jasmin* (cf French *jasmin*), *masculin* (cf French *masculin*), *medicin, urin*; these forms then match their rhymes *assassin, bumpkin, catkin, coffin, cousin, dolphin, margin, origin, penguin, resin, robin, virgin*, etc and are distinguished from words with long I such as *define, supine* etc. (Many words of the *destin* type also lose their I by Rule 2, eg, final CS *destn*.) Where the I has long ‘continental’ value as in *machine, routine* etc, final -E is not cut, though especially in the case of chemical substances the pronunciation may vary — TO *glycerine*, for instance, may rhyme with either *machine* or with *medicin*, and CS then prefers the shorter value for its more economical spelling. Redundant final -E also occurs in a few monosyllables after N: in addition to *don, non* (cf E.1.1.3 above), the past tense of *shine* loses its -E, turning TO *shone* into CS *shon* (cf *on, tone*).

E.1.1.10 *Europe* > *Europ* If place-names are cut, *Europe* would lose final -E (cf *develop*).

E.1.1.11 -QUE > -Q: *plaque* > *plaq* Unless it has ‘magic’ function, indicating a preceding long vowel (as in *opaque, clique, critique, mystique, oblique, pique, physique, technique, brusque*), final -E is removed from the -QUE ending, and *masque, plaque, arabesque, burlesque, grotesque, picaresque, picturesque, baroque, torque, mosque* become (with additional loss of silent U after Q for which see U.2.2) *masq, plaq, arabesq, burlesq, grotesq, picaresq, picturesq, baroq, mosq*. For British *barque, cheque*, CS

bark, chek, see under Q.

E.1.1.12 -RE > -R

E.1.1.12.1 *Ar, wer, wher* These very common words have a misleading final -E which CS removes: *ar* (cf *bar, bare*), *wer* (cf *her, here*). The pronunciation of *there, where* can be usefully distinguished from that of *here* by writing *ther, wher*, though at the expense of an apparent rhyme with *her* (see under A.2.4.2 *pear — per*, I.1.4 *their — ther* for discussion of this point). CS *wher* already occurs in TO *wherever*.

E.1.1.12.2 Consonant +RE > -E: *centre* > *centr* CS cuts final -E from the British forms *calibre, centre, goitre, manoeuvre, meagre, reconnoitre, septre* (TO *sceptre*), *sombre, spectre, theatre* giving *calibr, centr, goitr, meagr, manoeuvr, reconnoitr, septr, sombr, spectr, theatr*. (If the final -E has a ‘magic’ function, indicating a preceding long vowel, the TO form is not cut: *acre, fibre, litre, lucre, mediocre, metre, mitre, ochre, ogre, sabre, saltpetre*.) Forms such as CS *centr* overcome the American-British discrepancy between the spellings *center/centre*, since the equivalent American forms with -ER also lose the E; but this occurs by [Rule 2](#), not Rule 1 as here, and is explained in Section 2 of this chapter.

E.1.1.12.3 -IRE > -IR: *Cheshire* > *Cheshir* If shire names are not pronounced with long I, the final -E may be cut: *Cheshir*.

E.1.1.12.4 -ORE > -OR: *before* > *befor* Final -ORE loses -E in *adore, before, bore, core, deplore, explore, fore, ignore, more, ore, sore, store, swore, tore, whore* (cf *for, abhor*), giving CS *ador, befor, bor, cor, deplor, explor, for, ignor, mor, or, sor, stor, swor, tor, whor*. The E is similarly cut before suffixes, as in CS *adord, explorr, ignorng* (see [Rule 2](#) for these forms). The reduction of the prefix *fore-* to *for-* overcomes the uncertainty surrounding the spelling of *forgo/forego*. For some speakers, notably Scottish, the loss of this final -E may disturb if their pronunciation distinguishes short O in *or* (giving it the same value as in *off*) and long O in *more*, giving it the same value as in *mole*. Here, as elsewhere, CS proposes that the standard spelling should represent the simplest common denominator among current pronunciations.

E.1.1.12.5 -URE > -UR: *nature* > *natur* Unstressed -URE, as in *exposure, figure, injure, lecture, leisure, mesure, nature, picture, pressure, procedure, seizure, tenure, treasure, verdure* etc, loses final -E, giving CS *exposur, figur, injur, lectur, leisur, mesur, natur, pictur, pressur, procedur, seizur, tenur, tresur, verdur* etc. (See [Rule 2](#) for forms such as *figr, lecturr, mesurng*.) However, when final -URE is stressed with the -E effectively having ‘magic’ function, it is not cut and CS keeps the TO form of *endure, manure*,

mature, secure etc. CS *brochur* implies first syllable stress.

E.1.1.13 Retaining or cutting -SE: *tense, practis* CS normally keeps final -E after voiceless S to avoid confusion with voiced inflectional -S; *dense, tease* etc are thus not cut to *dens, teas* (cf retention of final -SS by [Rule 3](#), §1.7 & 2.4.SS). Before a suffix beginning with a consonant, the E can be cut, so CS writes *else*, but *elswher*. Various disyllabic words with stress on the first syllable and voiceless S lose final E by analogy with TO *atlas, tennis*, giving *carcas, practis* (for TO *practice* as well as *practise*; cf Welsh *practis*), *premis, promis, purchas, purpos, porpois, tortois*; these endings then align usefully with simplified -SS forms like CS *compas, trespas* (see [Rule 3](#), §1.7.SS), and contrast with the different letter values of forms retaining -SE, like *erase, surprise, suppose, turquoise*, etc. The TO alternatives *carcass, premiss* for *carcase, premise* were discussed under E.1.1.2 above; for TO *cheese, geese* (CS *chese, gese*), see E.2.1.3 below. A particular anomaly is *whose*, which as a possessive, comparable to *hers, its, ours, theirs, yours* (see [Chapter 5](#) for possessive apostrophe), is cut to *whos* (final CS *hos*). French final -SSE with stressed final syllable is cut to -SS, giving *finess, largess, lacross*, as well as *mouss*.

E.1.1.14 -TE > -T: *opposite* > *opposit* Final vowel +TE loses -E except when the -E is ‘magic’, indicating a preceding long vowel. This enables CS to distinguish nouns/adjectives such as *appropriat, delegat, graduat, immediat* from corresponding verbs such as *to appropriate, to delegate, to graduate, to mediate* on the other, and likewise many other such pairs. Similarly CS distinguishes *definit, infinit* (final CS *defnit, infnit*) from *finite*, and aligns *opposit* with *deposit* (formerly spelt *deposite*). *Minut* (= 60 seconds) is distinguished from the adjective *minute* (= ‘very small’).

E.1.1.15 -VE > -V: *give* > *giv* Words ending in the sound /v/ usually have a following silent and (unless ‘magic’) redundant final -E in TO. If the -E is not needed to show a preceding long vowel (as in *save, eve, alive, move, rove*), CS cuts it, as in some very common words such as *hav* (cf *lav, save*), *giv, liv* (cf *spiv, dive*), as well as in *siev* (for loss of medial E to give final CS *siv*, E.2.1.4 below), and in many words ending in TO -LVE, -RVE, such as *salv, twelv, solv, starv, serv, curv*. TO *mauve* is cut to CS *mauv*. Particularly common are words ending in -IVE: *activ, subversiv, oliv*. If the A in TO *octave* is deemed not to have long value, CS can write *octav*. The loss of -E in *hav* means that contracted forms such as TO *I’ve, we’ve, you’ve, they’ve* become CS *I’v, we’v, you’v, they’v*. The plural of *leaf, sheaf, elf, loaf, thief, wolf, half, self, shelf* becomes CS *leavs, sheavs, elvs, loavs, thievs, wolvs, halvs, selvs, shelvs* (cf A.2.2.4). *Sleeve*, however, keeps its final -E, being cut to *sleve* to align with *eve, leve, receve, beleve* (cf A.2.2.4 for *leve*, I.1.3 for *receve, beleve*).

E.1.1.16 -WE > -W: *ewe* > *ew* *Ewe* rhymes with *few* and loses final -E, to give CS *ew*. Likewise TO *owe* loses final -E to become *ow* (in final CS the rebus *I.o.u.* represents the full spelling, and no longer requires full-stops).

E.1.1.17 French final -E: *brunette* > *brunett* A dilemma is posed by some French loans, where final -E may have a function not otherwise found in English. Thus in *brunette*, *cigarette*, *pipette*, *vignette* the typically French suffix -ETTE indicates a stressed final syllable, and it may be felt that both as a stress-marker and for the sake of international compatibility this ending should not be cut. However, forms such as *cadet*, *minuet*, *quartet* and the American alternative spelling *cigaret* can serve as models for such a cut with final stressed syllable, giving (with TT simplified by Rule 3) *brunet*, *pipet*, *vignet* (similarly CS *gavot* from TO *gavotte*). (It would, however, also be possible to indicate the stress pattern by retaining the TT, as in the German *Quartett*.) On the other hand, CS keeps final -E from French loans such as *collage* (final CS *colaje*), so that they may be distinguished from the ending of *village*, etc. More problematic are British-American *moustache*: *mustache*, in that the final -E may be felt to signal the special value of the CH, pronounced as SH, although this symbol-sound correspondence does not occur in final position in TO. CS here takes economy as its first priority and writes *mustach*, although the value of the -CH is then non-standard.

E.1.2 Redundant final -E after vowels.

E.1.2.1 Monosyllabic -EE > -E: *fee* > *fe* The TO forms *be*, *he*, *me*, *she*, *we* show that rhyming monosyllables such as *bee*, *fee*, *knee*, *lee*, *pee*, *see*, *tee* can be cut to consonant +E: *be*, *fe*, *kne* (final CS *ne*), *le*, *pe*, *se*, *te* (cf A.2.1 for *sea* > *se* etc, and for objections to these cuts; note here the peculiarity of TO *foresee* > CS *forsee*; see also Y.2 for *key* > *ke*). Some parallel forms occur in the Scandinavian languages: *se* ‘see’, in Norwegian *kne* ‘knee’. Polysyllabic words such as *agree*, *pedigree*, *committee* cannot lose final E (the contrast between *acre*, *ogre*, *agree* needs to be shown in the spelling), although there is a group of polysyllabic Greek-derived words (eg, *acme*, *catastrophe*) which do use single final -E with roughly the same value.

E.1.2.2 Final -IE remains -IE: *die* Unlike O, U and (in monosyllables) E, final -I does not normally have long value (as in *like*); its value in forms such as *fungi*, *alibi* and the names of the Greek letters *xi*, *pi*, *phi*, *chi*, *psi* is exceptional, as contrasted with its normal value in *taxi*, *spaghetti* etc. Therefore CS does not cut final -E from *die*, *lie*, *pie*, *tie*, *vie*. These words could be respelled *dy*, *ly*, *py*, *ty*, *vy* (see [Chapter 4](#)) to match their -ING forms (*dying* etc), and are perhaps only spelt with IE in TO to prevent two-letter content words arising; when more than one letter precedes the final vowel, TO normally uses the -Y ending (*fly*, *shy*, *sky*, *try*, *reply*, *qualify*) which are models

for several new applications of Y in CS (see [Chapter 4](#)).

E.1.2.3 -OE > -O: *foe* > *fo* Words ending in -OE, pronounced long /o:/, usually cut the -E, so that TO *felloe*, *foe*, *floe*, *mistletoe*, *roe*, *sloe*, *woe* become *fello*, *fo*, *flo*, *mislto*, *ro*, *slo*, *wo*. Exceptions (shown with a following asterisk in the dictionary) are required in the following cases to avoid ambiguity: *doe** (cf TO *do* and CS *doh* for *dough* — see G.2.5.1), *hoe** (cf TO *who*, CS *ho*), *shoe** (cf TO *show*, CS *sho*), *toe** (cf TO *to*; for the same reason TO *tow* cannot lose its -w — cf W.3.1). Possibly the special value of -OE (as in Dutch) in *canoe**, *shoe** may further justify keeping the -E in these two words.

E.1.2.4 -UE > -U: *argue* > *argu* Final -U in *coyup*, *emu*, *flu*, *Hindu*, *menu*, *Peru* shows that TO *accrue*, *ague*, *argue*, *avenue*, *blue*, *construe*, *continue*, *due*, *ensue*, *glue*, *hue*, *imbue*, *issue*, *pursue*, *queue*, *rescue*, *residue*, *retinue*, *revenue*, *revue*, *rue*, *sprue*, *statue*, *subdue*, *sue*, *tissue*, *true*, *value*, *venue*, *virtue* can lose final -E, to give *accru*, *agu*, *argu*, *avenu*, *blu*, *constru*, *contin*, *du*, *ensu*, *glu* (cf French *glu*), *hu*, *imbu*, *issu* (cf French *issu*), *pursu*, *queu* (final CS *qu*), *rescu*, *residu* (cf French *résidu*), *retinu*, *revenu* (cf French *revenu*), *revu*, *ru*, *spru*, *statu*, *su*, *subdu*, *tissu* (cf French *tissu*), *tru*, *valu*, *venu*, *virtu* (cf French *vertu*). The systematic removal of this final -E resolves a common source of error in TO (eg, **arguement*, **truely* for *argument*, *truly*) by giving the base-words *du*, *tru*, *argu*, *contin* etc the same spelling as their derivatives, eg, *duly*, *truly*, *argument*, *continuation*, which already lack the E in TO. See E.3.2.2 and [Chapter 3](#) Rule 2 for inflection of -U endings with -D and -S, but -ING.

E.1.2.5 -YE > -Y: *rye* > *ry* Such forms as *by*, *my*, *sty* show that final -E is redundant in *bye*, *dye*, *eye*, *rye*, giving CS *by*, *dy*, *ey*, *ry*. In TO *sty* is already an alternative form for *stye* and is preferred in CS (cf E.1.1.2, Y.3). The extension of this regularization to *die*, *pie*, *tie*, *vie* in a subsequent reform to CS is discussed in [Chapter 6](#), §1.3.2.

E.1.2.6 -Y-E > -Y-: *type* > *typ* CS takes several steps towards regularizing the long I-sound (as in *like*) by using just Y (cf [Chapter 4](#), §5 for substitutions involving Y). One way of doing this is by cutting what looks like ‘magic’ -E after long Y: if Y by itself represents the long vowel, then a following ‘magic’ -E is redundant and can be cut. For instance, the difference in pronunciation between *sty* and *style* lies only in the L, not in the final -E, which is therefore redundant, and CS can write just *styl*. By the same logic, words such as TO *analyze*, *gybe*, *paralyze*, *pyre*, *rhyme*, *thyme*, *type*, *tyre* are cut to *analyz*, *gyb*, *paralyz*, *pyr*, *rhym* (final CS *rym*), *thym*, *typ*, *tyr*. (TO *scythe*, CS *sythe* keeps final -E to show that the preceding TH is voiced, as in *sooth/soothe*, *wreath/wreathe* [CS *reath/rethe*]; CS *sythe* has the further advantage of avoiding a misleading parallel with the non-standard short value of Y in *myth*, which ought ideally to be respelt *mith*). (cf Y.3)

E.2 Redundant medial (or initial) E**E.2.1 In vowel digraphs.**

E.2.1.1 HEAR- > HAR-: *hearth* > *harth* Th -EAR in *hearken*, *heart*, *hearth* misleadingly suggests th vowel of *hear* and is cut to -AR-, giving *harken* (cf *hark*), *hart*, *harth*.

E.2.1.2 -EAU > -AU: *bureau* > *burau* Since th French spellings EAU, AU both hav th valu of long O (eg, *mauve*), th E can be cut from loanwords containing EAU, giving CS *burau*, *buraucracy*, *platau*. This admittedly has th disadvantage of undermining som internationally widespred forms, and furthermor AU for /o/ is not one of th standard English symbol-sound correspondences listed in [Chapter 2](#). For *beauty* cut to *beuty*, se A.5 abov, and for th final cut to *buty*, se E.2.1.6 below.

E.2.1.3 -EE-E > E-E: *sleeve* > *sleve* Just as A.2.2.2 cut TO *lease*, *please* etc to CS *lese*, *plese* (cf also A.2.2.3, giving CS *brethe* from TO *breathe* etc, and A.2.2.4, giving *leve* from TO *leave* etc), so medial -EE- is cut when a ‘magic’ -E follows to indicate th long vowel. Thus *fleece*, *Greece*, *geese*, *cheese*, *seethe*, *sleeve*, *breeze*, *freeze* ar cut to CS *flece*, *Grece* (cf *Grecian*), *gese*, *chese*, *sethe*, *sleve*, *breze*, *freze* (but se A.2.2.2 for discussion of advantages, disadvantages and alternativs, and cf also I.1.3 for *piece*, *receive*, *believe*, *seize*, *frieze* cut to *pece*, *receve*, *beleve*, *seze*, *freze*). Unfortunately th rules of CS do not allow any regularization of th anomalous TO forms *precede*, *proceed*, *procedure* (CS *procedur*), although harmonization either as *precede*, *procede*, *procedur* or else as *preceed*, *proceed*, *proceedur* would be sensibl.

E.2.1.4 EI, IE > I: *fiery* > *firy*, *frontier* > *frontir* Th misleading E in *height*, *sleight* (cf *high*, *sight*, *sly*), *fiery* (cf *fire*, *wire*, *wiry*) and *siev* (cf CS *liv*) is cut, giving *hight*, *slight* (or better, as suggested in [Chapter 4](#), §5, *hyt*, *slyt*), *firy*, *siv*. CS can also remove initial E- from TO *eiderdown* (if th loss of th initial letter is not too disturbing), and medial -E- in CS *kalidoscope* (but not in *seismic*, as **sismic* would appear to hav short I). Similarly, th ending of *souvenir* shows that *courtier*, *frontier*, *chandelier*, *soldier*, *glacier*, *cavalier* etc can be cut to *courtir*, *frontir*, *chandelir*, *soldir*, *glacir*, *cavalir* etc. This final -IR syllabl also occurs in th monosyllabls *bier*, *pier*, *tier*, which can be cut to CS *bir*, *pir*, *tir* (th apparent rhym with *fir*, *sir* is regrettabl, but may be compared with th apparent rhym of TO *pear*, CS *per* with *her*, for discussion of which se A.2.4.2); th forms *bir*, *pir*, *tir* ar recommended for their simplicity and economy. An exeption may hav to be made for *weir** which if cut to **wir* would merge with th final CS form of *whir(r)*. In th following cases, EI, IE, must remain uncut: without E, *field* would merge with *filled* (CS *fild*), *weird* would appear to rhym with *bird*, and *conceit*, *deceit*, *receipt* would appear to rhym with *tacit*. *Either*, *neither* need to keep their first E- to

represent their alternative pronunciations (as ‘eether’ or ‘yther’).

E.2.1.5 *Yeoman* > *yoman* *Yeoman* loses E to match *Roman*.

E.2.1.6 EU > U: *adieu* > *adiu* The digraph EU can often lose E if pronounced as long U, as in *adieu*, *amateur*, *grandeur*, *leukemia*, *neural*, *queu*, *rheumatism*, *sleuth*, which give CS *adiu*, *amatur* (cf *armatur*, final CS *amatr*), *grandur* (cf *verdur*), *lukemia*, *nural*, *quu* (final CS *qu*), *rhumatism* (cf *ruminat*, and French *rhumatisme*), *sluth* (cf *truth*; for CS *yuth*, see O.4.2). Initial E- as in TO *euphony*, *Europe* might be cut, but the omission is very disturbing (**ufony*, **Urop*), with the U- in **Ustn* for TO *Euston* appearing to have the short U of *us*; also, *Europ* is publicly identified with initial E. TO *neutral*, *neuter* are better cut by Rule 2, and *pharmaceutical* needs E to show the preceding soft C. The words *beuty*, *beutiful*, *beuteous* (loss of A in TO *beauty* etc. discussed under A.5) rhyme with TO *duty* etc., which shows that the E is also redundant, so that CS can write *buty*, *butiful*, *buteous*.

E.2.1.7 -EW > -*W: *brew* > **brw* The digraph -EW has at most a historical affinity with its sound value, whose standard representation would otherwise require the digraph OO or the letter U in modern English. However, the letter W might hold some potential for representing such a sound in the context of a more radical reform than CS — see [Chapter 6](#), §1.5 for fuller discussion of this longer-term possibility.

E.2.1.8 -EY > -Y: *donkey* > *donky* There is much confusion in TO between the two endings -EY, -Y, and the distinction is historically often arbitrary (eg, historically *chimney*, *country* should have the same ending). They are often misspelled in TO and are sometimes alternatives, as seen in TO *bogey/bogy*, *curtsey/curtsy*, *dopey/dopy*, *storey/story*, *whiskey/whisky*. CS might consider keeping a ‘magic’ E to indicate a preceding long vowel, as in *bogey*, *dopey*, while not writing it in *curtsy*, *story* (already an American spelling for *storey*), *whisky*. However, there are several complications: the comparative form of *dopey/dopy* is always *dopier* (CS *dopir*), never **dopeyer* (the TO forms *cagey/cagier* are then particularly anomalous); certain other long-vowel forms are never written with -EY (always *pony*, never **poney*), so a long vowel would still not be a reliable indicator of an -EY ending; and despite a few common exceptions such as *many*, *very*, *city*, *body*, *busy*, TO normally distinguishes parallel short-vowel forms by doubling the preceding consonant (eg, *holy/holly*). Altogether therefore a lengthening ‘magic’ E before the final -Y can generally be regarded as redundant, and CS regularly writes such words with final -Y, not final -EY, regardless of the length of the preceding vowel. Typical CS forms are then *bogy*, *curtsy*, *dopy*, *story*, *holy*, *holly*, *chimny*, *donky*, *vally* (see Chapter 3, [Rule 3](#), §2.5.1 for retention of doubled consonants in such words) etc, and after G > J substitution (see [Chapter 4](#)) *cajy/cajir*. (See E.3 for plural and past tense inflections.) By cutting E from those -EY endings, CS also removes confusion with the standard value of final

-EY in *they, whey, convey, purvey, survey*, which keep th E (for *inveigh*, se G.2.3, below).

E.2.1.9 *manoeuvre* > *maneuvr* After cutting th O from British *manoeuvre* (se O.2), giving *maneuvre*, CS has a choice between cutting th medial or th final E, one of them being needed to indicate th long U. By choosing th form *maneuvr* (in accordance with E.1.1.12.2, abov) rather than **manuvre* with its ‘magic’ -E, CS aims to harmonize th British and American endings -VRE versus -VER. This is achieved by writing VR for both; th form **manuvre* conflicts with American *maneuver*, but CS *maneuvr* dos not.

E.2.2 Adjacent to consonants.

E.2.2.1 -GE- > -J-: se [Chapter 4](#) If CS consistently replaces soft G by J (se Chapter 4), an E serving only to indicate a preceding soft G is cut: *ageing, singeing, swingeing* becom *ajing, sinjing, swinjing*. Without this substitution *ageing* can still lose its anomalous E (by analogy with *raging*; th form *aging* is also found as an alternativ in TO); but *singeing, swingeing* would hav to keep E to remain distinct from *singing, swinging*. Befor th suffix -OUS, this E can also only be cut if J is substituted for G, enabling TO *advantageous, courageous, gorgeous, outrageous* to becom *advantajous, courajous, gorjous, outrajous*.

E.2.2.2 Medial -E- > -: *every* > *evry* Many words ar written with a medial -E- in TO that is usually elided in speech. Som hav alrely lost th E in TO (eg, th old spellings *enemity, lightening* [for TO *lightning*], *remanent, wintery*; cf also American *jewelry* for British *jewellery*). A very large number of other words also lose elided medial -E- in CS, eg, *boistrous, delibrat, evry, genral, opra, prepondrance, sevral, sovreign, Wensday*. Many such cuts can also be listed under [Rule 2](#), §1.3, below (eg, th perennially confusing *separat, desperat, corporat* cut to CS *seprat, desprat, corprat*, and *secretary, monastery, dormitory* alignd — at least for British speakers — with *ministry* as *secretry, monastry, dormitry*). Medial -E- in TO *vegetable* can only be cut after G > J substitution (se [Chapter 4](#)) to giv CS *vejtabl*.

E.3 Redundant inflectional E

Although E in th following patterns is redundant by Rule 1, being silent and irrelevant to pronunciation, th resulting cuts also relate to Rule 2 (Category 2), which governs th omission of unstressed (ie, pronounced) vowel letters in inflections. Taken together, these cuts result in a new norm for spelling inflections in English, namely that (with a few exeptions), they ar indicated by consonants only, and not by vowel letters. For an overview of all vowel omissions in inflections, se *Table 3 (Patterns of vowel cut in inflections)* at th end of Chapter 3, [Rule 2](#) (Category 2).

E.3.1 Consonant +ED > D: *washed* > *washd* In past tense forms of

verbs whose base does not end in -T or -D, the E of the TO past tense suffix -ED is silent (it was often written with an apostrophe in the eighteenth century). Provided it does not have 'magic' function, indicating a preceding long vowel (as in *based, filed, hoped*) and does not indicate a preceding soft C or G (as in *pounced, urged*), the E can be cut, giving *robbed, enriched, bridged* (by G > J substitution, *brijd*), *roofed, soaked, peeled, dapped, roamed, pained, ringed, reaped, feared, entered, centered, passed, wished, mouthed, lived, cowed, taxed, replied* (see E.3.3 below and [Chapter 4](#) for I > Y substitution), *surveyed, whizzed*. This E can even be cut from a base-form ending in consonant +SE, as in *pulsed, tensed, lapsed, nursed*. But when the E is pronounced in adjectives ending in -ED, it is kept; so CS can distinguish the verb in *they learned* from the adjective in *they are very learned*; and verse whose rhythm requires the inflectional E to be pronounced will spell it accordingly — contrast CS “*smiling, damned villain*” (verse, *Hamlet*), and CS “*out, damned spot*” (prose, *Macbeth*). The possibility of also cutting this E after -D, -T, where it is pronounced (as in *needed, fitted*), is discussed under [Rule 2](#), in the next main section of this chapter.

E.3.2.1 Vowel +ED > D: *taxied > taxed* Except for certain monosyllables, verbs whose base-form ends in a vowel letter add just -D for their past tense, as happens in TO with words ending in silent -E (*hate/hated, budge/budged*). CS applies this pattern after other vowels as follows: *subpoena/subpoened, acne/acned, taxi/taxed, embargo/embargoed, argue/argued*. Some speakers object to the ending -ID in forms such as *taxied* on the grounds that in their speech the vowel sound in the TO past tense ending -IED has a longer value than the -ID ending of adjectives such as *rapid*, and that CS should therefore not merge the spelling of TO *candied/candid*; this objection needs to be considered together with the *eyries/iris* confusion mentioned under E.3.3 below. Monosyllables ending in a vowel have to add -ED: TO *key+ed* becomes CS *key+ed*, TO *glue+d* becomes CS *glue+ed*; and those rhyming with *go*, such as TO *crow, mow, row, snow, sow, stow* become CS *croed, floed, loed, moed, roed, snoed, soed, stoed*. On the other hand, monosyllables rhyming with *now* lose the E (*cowd, vowd*). If the base-form retains final silent -E in CS, it is of course also retained in the past tense: *hoed, shoed, toed*. Exceptions have to be made with TO *showed, towed* (cf also E.1.2.3), which become CS *showd, towd*, to prevent confusion with TO *shoed, toed*. (See W.3 for fuller discussion of CS treatment of -OW endings.)

E.3.2.2 Vowel +ES > S: *potatoes > potatoes* Nouns ending in -O add just -S in CS, not -ES, to form their plurals. CS thus resolves the confusion in TO as to whether nouns ending in -O form their plurals with -ES (TO *potatoes*), or just -S (TO *pianos*), or optionally either ending (TO *ghettos, ghettos*). CS writes just -S in all these cases (*potatos, pianos, ghettos*). Similarly, verbs ending in -O which form their present tense inflections with -OES in TO (*does, goes, embargoes*), lose their E to become CS *dos, gos*,

embargos. If the base-form itself retains final silent -E in CS, it is of course retained before the -S inflection: *hoses, toes, shoes*. Words ending in final -U in TO (eg, *emu*), add -S (*emus*), as do words which have final -U after loss of -E in CS (*continu, continuus*). The inflected CS form of TO *argue, venue* is preserved from ambiguity with *Argus, Venus* by being written with a small letter: *argus, venus*; but the plural of *statu* does risk confusion with *status*, and might therefore exceptionally remain as *statues* if the context were thought insufficient to distinguish the meaning.

E.3.3 -Y, -EY + -D, -S inflections: *replied > replyd, pities > pitis*
 When final -Y, -EY with value as in *reply, survey* inflect, they simply add -D, -S in CS, giving *replyd, replys* (ie, no switch to IE as happens in TO *replied, replies*; see [Chapter 4](#), §5.3, for fuller discussion of these letter substitutions), and *surveyd, surveys*. But when final -Y, -EY are pronounced as in TO *pity, volley* (which is cut to *volly*, as explained in E.2.1.8), their inflected forms change the -Y to -I, giving the CS inflections -ID, -IS. These patterns retain some of the complexity of TO, but also simplify. When a vowel precedes final -Y, TO usually adds -ED, -S (TO *volleyed, volleys, surveyed, surveys*) regardless of pronunciation; when the preceding letter is a consonant, TO usually inflects by changing the -Y to -IE+D, -IE+S (*pitied, pities, replied, replies*), although the -Y is kept when -ING or possessive -'S is added: *replying* and *pity's*; in addition, TO allows exceptions such as the alternative forms *honied, monies* from *honey, money*. CS simplifies these TO variations, adding -ID, -IS whenever the final vowel is pronounced as short I, giving such forms as *citis, vollis, vollid, chimnis, chimnid, donkis, pitis, pitid, honid, monid, monis*. (For discussion of the possessive -'S inflection of such words, eg, TO *pity's*, see [Chapter 5](#), §2.5.) The possibility of confusion between plural endings with voiced S, as in *pitis*, and non-inflected endings with voiceless S in such forms as *practis, bronchitis* is not felt to justify retaining the E in TO *pities* etc (but see [Chapter 6](#), §2.4.LT for discussion of keeping E in the plural -IES ending to avoid such ambiguity). In general it is expected that in such cases users will recognize the structure of base-word + inflection; but any problem perceived in the area of final vowel + S needs to be considered in the same context as final vowel + D (eg, the *candied/candid* ambiguity) mentioned under E.3.2.1 above. In non-inflected words ending in -IES, such as *rabies, series, species* (CS *speces*), the E is kept, partly to indicate a slightly lengthened pronunciation of the last vowel and partly to distinguish these words from inflected forms such as *taxis, pitis* (otherwise *rabbis/rabies* risk acquiring the same spellings after consonant simplification by Rule 3). This clarification of the rules of inflection would then resolve that journalist's headache, the correct plural of TO *Germany*: while in TO it vacillates between *Germanys* and *Germanies*, the full CS rules allow only *Jermnis*. For a simple listing of the endings described in this section, see Table 3 at the end of [Rule 2](#).

Redundant F

CS rarely cuts F (though, except in *off*, FF is normally simplified). If F in *halfpenny* is silent, it may be omitted as in TO *ha'p'orth* (CS *hapeny*); and if F is considered silent in TO *twelfth*, CS may write *twelth*. However, as discussed in [Chapter 4](#), in general CS more often introduces F than it cuts it, substituting F for GH, PH when these are so pronounced: *ruf*, *fotografy*.

Redundant G

(See [Chapter 4](#), §4 for CS substitution of J for soft G as in *jinjer*.)

G.1 Silent G

G.1.1 Final -GM > -M: *diaphragm* > *diaphram* A number of TO spellings contain silent G before final -M: *apothegm*, *diaphragm*, *phlegm*. CS removes it, giving *apothem*, *diaphram*, *phlem*. In *paradigm* the G indicates the long value of the preceding I (ie, not the short value as in *cherubim*), but this G can be dropped if Y is substituted for the long value of IG, giving CS *paradym* (see [Chapter 4](#), §5 for CS substitution of Y for long IG). When the G is pronounced in derivations (eg, *phlegmatic* from *phlegm*), it is kept in CS.

G.1.2 Initial GN- > N-: *gnaw* > *naw* Several TO spellings (derived from various sources, native English, German, Greek, African) contain silent initial G- before N. TO *gnarl*, *gnash*, *gnat*, *gnaw*, *gneiss*, *gnome*, *gnostic*, *gnu* lose G- to become CS *narl*, *nash*, *nat*, *naw*, *neiss*, *nome*, *nostic*, *nu*. When GN- is pronounced as NY- (/nj/), as in Italian *gnocchi* and, medially, French *cognac*, *poignant*, writers may prefer to keep the G, both for the sake of the sound and for the sake of international compatibility.

G.1.3 Final -GN > -N

G.1.3.1 Spurious -GN > -N: *foreign* > *forein* Silent G in TO *foreign*, *sovereign* has no etymological justification, and is cut to give *forein*, *sovrein* (the 17th century poet Milton wrote *sovran*; cf also French *forain*, *souverain*).

G.1.3.2 Long vowel + -GN > -N: *deign* > *dein* Several TO forms contain a long vowel + silent G + final -N: *arraign*, *campaign*, *champagne*, *deign*, *feign*, *reign*. Since the long vowel is otherwise indicated, CS removes the G, giving *arrain*, *campain*, *champane*, *dein* (this might be respelt to match related *disdain*), *fein*, *rein*.

G.1.3.3 -IGN > -YN: see [Chapter 4](#) In another group of TO spellings ending in -GN, a preceding long vowel is in effect indicated by the G. If ambiguity with *sin* is to be avoided, the G in *sign* cannot simply be omitted; similarly, the long I needs to be indicated in *align*, *assign*, *benign*, *consign*,

design, ensign, malign, resign. [Chapter 4](#), §5, discusses how these can be respelt *alyn, asyn, benyn, consyn, desyn, ensyn, malyn, resyn, syn*, as part of the rule for -IG > -Y substitution. The CS rules do not suggest how silent G could be dropped from *impugn*, but the form *impune* would show how it rhymes with *tune*.

G.2 GH This digraph is perhaps the most notorious spelling anomaly of TO, as it is never pronounced according to the standard value of the letters, and is most often silent. Not merely is it esthetically grotesque, but it seriously hinders the learning process. It causes many misspellings such as *figth* for *fight*, and makes the writing of many common words unnecessarily cumbersome. Rarer words, such as *hough, slough, furlough*, leave many readers perplexed as to pronunciation, and non-native speakers are prone to mispronunciations such as rhyming *dough* with *now*. CS makes every attempt to remove GH altogether, but to achieve this, several strategies are needed, some going beyond simple omission (see [Chapter 4](#) for F, Y substitutions).

G.2.1 -AIGH- > -AI-: *straight* > *strait* CS cuts *straight* to *strait*, so removing confusion with TO *strait*, as in the alternative forms *straightjacket/straitjacket*.

G.2.2 -AUGHT > -AUT: *caught* > *caut* In many words AUGH can be cut to AU and so more clearly show the pronunciation (cf. homophones *taught/taut*). Thus *aught, caught, daughter, distraught* (unhistorical GH; cf. the related *distracted*), *fraught, haughty* (another unhistorical GH, as the word derives from French *haut*), *onslaught, naught, naughty, slaughter, taught* become *caut, dauter, distraut, fraut, hauty, onslaut, naut, nauty, slauter, taut*. For TO *draught*, the alternative *draft* is already used in American and in some senses in British spelling, and is adopted as standard by CS. For respelling *laugh, laughter* as *laf, laftr*, see [Chapter 4](#), §3.1.

G.2.3 EIGH > EI: *eight* > *eit* TO *eight, freight, inveigh, neigh, neighbour, sleigh, weigh, weight* become CS *eit, freit, invei* (unless *invey* is preferred, to parallel *convey, purvey, survey*, the GH being unhistorical), *nei, neighbour, slei, wei, weit*. (For *height, sleight*, see E.2.1.4 above and G.4 below). The anomalous sound-symbol correspondence of the TH in TO *eight* is even more apparent in CS *eith*. Since English words do not normally end in -EI, the forms *ney, wey* might be preferred to the simple cut forms *nei, wei*.

G.2.4 -IGH > -Y: see [Chapter 4](#) This proposed substitution is discussed in full in Chapter 4, §5, but cf. also Y.3. The development from earlier *drigh, fligh, sligh* to TO *dry, fly, sly* (though GH survives in related *drought, flight, sleight*) suggests the same change for the parallel -IGH forms, many of which end in -IGHT: *byt, blyt, bryt, delyt* (although its GH is unhistorical, the

word being related to *delicious*, not to *light*), *flyt*, *fryt*, *fyt*, *hy*, *hyt*, *lyt*, *myt*, *nyt* (for both *knight*, *night*), *plyt*, *ryt* (for both *right*, *wright*), *slyt*, *sprytly*, *sy*, *syt*, *thy* (from *thigh*, despite ambiguity with th archaic possessiv ajectiv *thy*), *tyt*. These forms will not be used in this Handbook until [Chapter 4](#), §5.

G.2.5 OUGH, th most irregular use of irregular GH

G.2.5.1 -OUGH > -O: *though* > *tho* TO *borough*, *furlough*, *thorough*, *though* becom CS *boro*, *furlo*, *thoro*, *tho*, som of these forms being alrely widely used in informal writing. To avoid confusion with th verb *to do*, TO *dough* keeps its H in CS *doh* (which also becoms th standard CS form for th musical note).

G.2.5.2 -OUGH > -U: *through* > *thru* TO *through* becoms (after losing O — se O.4.2) CS *thru* — a common TO abbreviation alrely.

G.2.5.3 -OUGH > -OU: *drought* > *drout* TO *bough*, *slough* (= muddy depression), *sough*, *drought* becom CS *bou*, *slou*, *sou* (cf *thou*), *drout*. For *plough*, CS adopts th American (and former alternativ British) spelling *plow*, and spellings with -OW might generally be preferrd for TO *bough*, *sough* and even *slough*, provided TO *slow* became CS *slo* (se W.3).

G.2.5.4 OUGHT > OT: *ought* > *ot* TO *bought*, *brought*, *fought*, *nought*, *ought*, *sought*, *thought*, *wrought* clearly contain redundant letters, but, apart from th G, it is not self-evident which should be cut. Th forms *bot*, *brot*, *fot*, *ot*, *sot*, *thot* ar th most economical, and giv th vowel th same valu as in *or* and, in som accents, *off*, as well as in th proposed CS form *brod* for TO *broad* (se A.6). However, many non-Scottish speakers may dislike th implied rhym of *ought* with *hot* and especially th merger of th pairs *not/nought*, *rot/wrought*. One way of avoiding these effects would be to keep th H, giving *boht*, *broht*, *foht*, *noht*, *roht* (or even to keep th UH, giving *bouht*, *rouht* etc); or alternatively, th fact that these words rhym with *caught*, *fraught*, *taught* (*naught* is th US variant for *nought* alrely) might justify th forms *baut*, *braut*, *faut*, *naut*, *aut*, *raut*, *saut*, *thaut*. This Handbook and [CS dictionary](#) will, however, recommend th shortest forms *bot*, *brot* etc, but use th American variant *naught* as th basis for CS *naut*, rather than ambiguous *not*.

G.2.6 -GH > -F: se [Chapter 4](#) In a few common words, -GH is pronounced as F, and after cutting th O or U according to pronunciation, CS changes *chough*, *clough*, *cough*, *enough*, *rough*, *slough* (= shed snakeskin), *tough*, *trough* to *chuf*, *cluf*, *cof*, *enuf*, *ruf*, *sluf*, *tuf*, *trof* (se O.4.3 for loss of O, U.3.3 for loss of U, Chapter 4, §3.1 for GH > F substitution).

G.2.7 GH > K: *hough* > *hok* *Hough* is also spelt *hock* in TO, which CS cuts to *hok*, to match its rhym *lok*, *sok* etc.

G.2.8 GH > P: *hiccough* > *hiccup* Th form *hiccough* was introduced as an alternativ to *hiccup*, which was wrongly believed to derive from *cough*. CS spells it only with th original P.

G.2.9 GH in proper names In proper names, GH creates even mor problems for th reader than in ordinary words, giving very littl idea how to pronounce such forms as *Greenhalgh*, *Langbaurgh*, *Lysaght*, *Houghton*, *Coughton*. Proper names would require a variety of changes to improve their spelling: in *Shillelagh* th GH would be omitted, in *Keighley* it would be respelt TH, and *Mexborough*, *Middlesbrough*, *Edinburgh* might all adopt th same suffix -BRO.

Redundant H

H.1 Silent H

H.1.1 Initial H- > -: *honest* > *onest* Initial H is silent in som words, and is then cut: TO *heir*, *honest*, *honour*, *hour* becom *eir*, *onest* (cf Italian *onesto*), *onour*, *our*. Americans might wish to cut *herb* to *erb*.

H.1.2 Consonant +H > consonant + -: *exhaust* > *exaust* Th letter H is silent after th prefix EX-, and is then cut to giv *exale*, *exaust*, *exibit*, *exilarate*, *exort*, *exume*. Th same cut is made after T in *posthumous*, giving *postumus* (this H is probably spurious anyway — se Latin *postumus*, German *postum*) and after P in *shepherd*, giving *sheperd* (that H has long been lost from th surnames *Sheppard*, *Coward* [<cow-herd] and *Howard* [<ewe-herd]). TO *dinghy* can be cut to CS *dingy*, since by G > J letter substitution (se [Chapter 4](#)) TO *dingy* becoms CS *dinjy*. Th H can also be cut in many place-names ending in -HAM (reducing th ending to just -M by CS Rule 2) depending on pronunciation. For instance, British *Birmingham* can ultimatly be cut to *Birmngm*, while *Birmingham*, Alabama could remain intact. CS can in this way clarify th pronunciation of names which ar otherwise liable to be mispronounced, for instance by cutting TO *Masham/Measham* to *Masm/Meashm* respectivly; similarly *Clapm*, *Eltm*, *Granthm*.

H.1.3 Final -AH > -A: *cheetah* > *cheeta* TO often spells words of Arabic, Hebrew or Indian origin with final -AH, altho som hav alternativs without H. Thus *hookah*, *chutzpah*, *Deb(o)ra(h)*, *hallelujah*, *Jehovah*, *Messiah*, *Sara(h)*, *cheetah*, *howdah*, *veranda(h)*, and similarly *savanna(h)*. CS cuts th H in all such words, giving *hooka*, *chutzpa*, *Debra*, *halleluja* (se also J), *Jehova*, *Messia*, *Sara*, *cheeta*, *howda*, *veranda*.

H.2 Redundant H in digraphs Th letter H is widely used in digraphs in English, and is not redundant in CH as in *chew*, SH as in *she*, nor in TH as in *this* and *thin*. However, when CH has th valu of K, and after many other consonants, th H is often redundant and can be cut.

H.2.1 ‘Greek’ CH > often C: *chaos* > *caos* This CH, when used to transcribe th Greek letter *chi* (κ), is pronounced as K in English, and for this purpos dos not in itself require th H. So TO *chaos*, *character*, *chorus*, *chrysalis*, *ochre*, *psychology*, *school*, *scholar*, *stomach*, *technical* etc, becom *caos* (Italian/Spanish *caos*), *caracter* (French *caractère*), *corus*, *crysalis*, *ocre* (French *ocre*), *psycology*, *scool*, *scolar*, *stomac*, *tecnical*. Ambiguity arises with *coir*, as th CS form of *choir* (historically spelt *quire*), tho TO *coir* is rare enuf for this perhaps not to matter. It will be noticed that CS cuts th spurious H from th musical term *chord*, so restoring th link with th related *concord*, *discord* etc. However, since befor E, I, Y th letter C is normally pronounced as S in English, CS dos not cut th H befor those front vowels. For instance, altho th H in TO *architect*, *monarchical* appears misleading when set beside *archbishop*, cut forms such as **arcitect*, **monarcical* appear misleading without H (**monarcical* appears to rhym with *farcical*). And while H in TO *bacchanal*, *monarch*, *stomach* can be cut to giv *baccanal*, *monarc*, *stomac*, an awkward inconsistency arises from th need to retain H in derivativs such as *bacchic*, *monarchy*, *stomachic*. Likewise, altho TO *psychology* can lose H to becom *psycology*, TO *psychiatry* must keep its H. Similar considerations apply to Italian loans, since Italian uses H after C specifcly to show its valu as K befor front vowels; for this reason CS cannot cut H in, for instance, *chiaroscuro*, *chianti* (even if it wer that justifiabl to flout th international spelling standards such words represent). On th other hand, in both ‘Greek’ and ‘Italian’ words, th combination SCH is less subject to th abov restriction. Since CS has alre dy cut redundant C from TO forms like *scent*, *scene*, *sceptre*, *science*, *scythe* (se C.3), but keeps it in *sceptic* (tho preferring American *skeptic*), such forms as CS *sceme*, *scerzo*, *scizoid* from TO *scheme*, *scherzo*, *schizoid* appear acceptabl. In th long term, th only simpl, global solution to th problems of CH pronounced as K is wholesale respelling, using th letter S always for soft C, and K for hard C, so producing contrasts like *farsikal/monarkikal*. However, such changes go well beyond what is envisaged for CS, tho their potential is discussd in [Chapter 6](#).

H.2.2 Other CHs: *yacht* > *yat* Th sixteenth century spelling *ake* was respelt *ache* (as explaind in Samuel Johnson’s *Dictionary*) in th mistaken belief it should contain a ‘Greek’ CH. Clearly CS cannot cut this H if confusion with TO *ace* is to be avoided, and th long-term solution to this unique anomaly would be to restor traditional English *ake*. By contrast, *dachshund*, *fuchsia* ar of German origin, but since English pronunciation so distorts th sound valu of th consonant strings involving C (CHSH, CHS), th Hs

hav becom redundant, and final CS can write *dacsnd*, *fucia*. Dutch-derived *yacht* loses both C (cf C.5) and H, giving CS *yat*, which ceses to be a unique spelling and matches th symbol-sound correspondence of *what*, *squat*, *swat*.

H.2.3 GH > G: *ghost* > *gost* As a nativ English digraph, th GH in words such as *weigh*, *through*, *cough* is removed in CS; se G.2 abov for simpl omission, and [Chapter 4](#), §3, for substitution by F. However, GH also occurs initially in a small group of spellings which it is believed Caxton's Dutch compositors imported from their own language in th 15th century: *ghastly*, *gherkin*, *ghost*; these all lose H in CS, to giv *gastly*, *gerkin*, *gost*. Italian uses H after G befor E, I to indicate th hard valu of th G, a device found occasionally in loan words in English such as *ghetto*, *spaghetti*; but since H dos not hav this hardening function in English and th hard-soft ambiguity of G is removed in final CS by G > J substitution anyway (se Chapter 4, §4), this Italian H can also be cut in CS, giving *getto*, *spagetti*. (Se H.2.1 abov for th reason why th same cut of hardening H cannot be made in 'Italian' CH in words like *chianti*.)

H.2.4 PH > F 'Greek' PH can be replaced by F in CS. Se also P.7 and [Chapter 4](#), §3.

H.2.5 RH > R: *rhythm* > *rythm* 'Greek' RH is cut to R, producing *rapsody*, *retoric*, *rumatism*, *rinoceros*, *rododendron*, *rubarb*, *rym*, *rythm*, *hemorrhage*, *catarr*, *myrr* (cf Italian *rapsodia*, *retorica*, *reumatico*, *rinoceronte*, *rima*, *ritmo* etc; similarly in Spanish, Portuguese and th Scandinavian languages).

H.2.6 TH > T: *thyme* > *tym* CS cuts H from *Thames*, *thyme*, giving *Tames* (cf French *Tamise*; final CS *Tams*), *tym*.

H.2.7 WH- > W-: *which* > *wich* Many lerners find it hard to distinguish initial WH- and W- (typical misspellings ar **whent*, **wether*, **whorthwile*), altho in som accents a distinction is herd, with WH- voiceless and aspirated as /hw/, but W- voiced and non-aspirated. In view of this confusion, and applying its customary principl of opting for th most economical spelling that represents a common pronunciation, CS ceses to distinguish WH-, W-, and normally cuts th H wherever th preceding W is pronounced. (Th H is of course kept wen pronounced as in *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *whole*, *whooping*, *whore*. In these words it is th W that is cut, giving *ho*, *hos*, *hom*, *hole*, *hooping*, *hor*. Se W.1.1.) Cutting H in WH givs th following spellings for th characteristic grammatical words: *wat*, *wen*, *wence*, *wether*, *wich*, *wile*, *wy*. Users may, however, hesitate about reducing TO *were/where* to th same CS form *wer* (giving rise to such phrases as *wer wer you?*), altho in som accents TO *where/were* ar homophones. In this

Handbook and the CS dictionary the H will be kept in the unique CS form *wher* (see E.1.1.12.1 for further discussion of this point). Other forms resulting from the loss of this H include *wack, wale, warf, weat, weedl, weel, welk, welp, werry, wet, wey, weze, wiff, Wig, wilst, wim, wimper, wip, wir(r)* (but see E.2.1.4 for the danger of ambiguity arising from a merger with *weir*, if that lost its E), *wirl, wisk, wisker, wisky, wisper, wist, wistl, wite, wither, wittl, wiz(z), worl*. A few words spelled differently in TO have the same form in CS following this loss of H: *whet/wet, whether/weather/wether* (final CS *wethr*), *which/witch* (CS *wich*), *Whig/wig, while/wile*. We may incidentally here note that Swedish has made a parallel cut of H, writing *val* ‘wale’, *vete* ‘weat’, *vit* ‘wite’ where Danish/Norwegian still have H in their corresponding *hval, hvede/hvete, hvid/hvit*.

H.2.8 Exotic aspiration: *khaki* > *kaki* The letter H also occurs after various consonants to transcribe words borrowed from other languages, often to represent a phonetic aspiration that does not occur in English. It may then be difficult to decide whether the H can be cut or not. Clearly H is necessary in the ZH digraph to transcribe Russian; (*Brezhnev, Zhivago*), but it is not clear that H is needed in KH to transcribe Russian X when spelling *Khrushchov*, since English speakers usually pronounce the KH simply as K. Similarly many Asian and African names may be spelled with H that is not pronounced by native English speakers. If we consider *jodhpurs, khaki* as fully assimilated into the vocabulary of English, we can write *jodpurs, kaki* (cf also French *kaki*); but names such as *Marathi, Luthuli, Thai* should perhaps keep the H to reflect their pronunciation in the language of origin, although English speakers often mispronounce them as though they contained the common English digraph TH.

H.3 Exceptions

For a variety of reasons, medial H before a vowel has sometimes fallen silent, although the effect of cutting it may occasionally be undesirable. In TO *forehead*, for instance, pronunciation with and without H is heard, but CS writes *forhed* to preserve the link with *hed*. Similarly, silent H should probably not be cut from *vehement, vehicl* (although Italian offers the models of *veemente, veicolo*), as a misleading vowel digraph would otherwise result (**veement, *veicl*); furthermore, some speakers sound the H in *vehicl*. The alternative of replacing this H by an apostrophe (*ve'ement, ve'icl*) would introduce a novel element into the writing system, which CS generally tries to avoid (indeed, CS otherwise greatly reduces the TO use of apostrophes, as explained in [Chapter 5](#), §2).

Redundant I

I.1 Medial I

I.1.1 Misleading digraphs: *friend* > *frend* Th uniquely anomalous forms *friend*, *foreign*, *sovereign* lose I to become *frend*, *foren*, *soveren*. If TO *leisure* is deemed to rhyme with CS *plesur*, its CS form will be *lesur*; and for American pronunciation rhyming with TO *seizure*, CS *sezur* provides a good parallel for CS *lesur*. TO *heifer* becomes final CS *hefr*. Th forms *dew*, *new*, *pew* etc show I in TO *view* is redundant (CS *vew*). TO *species/faeces* align as CS *speces/feces*. Altho British and American pronunciations of th first syllabl of TO *lieutenant* differ radically, th I is redundant in both accents and therfor cut, giving *leutenant* (cf German *Leutnant*).

I.1.2 AI-E > A-E: *praise* > *prase* TO *appraise*, *baize*, *maize*, *malaise*, *migraine*, *moraine*, *plaice*, *praise*, *raise*, *waive* indicate th long valu of A twice, once with th digraph AI and again with th ‘magic’ E. In som cases th E could be cut (*maiz*, *waiv*), but elswher this is not possibl (**plaic*, **rais*), and for th sake of consistency al lose I insted (altho th non-obvious cognate *waif* dos provide an argument for cutting TO *waive* to **waiv*). In this way CS aligns these forms with a commoner TO pattern (as in *face*, *phase*, *gave*, *gaze*), giving *apprase*, *baze*, *malase*, *maze*, *migrane*, *morane*, *place*, *prase*, *rase* (*raze*, also *rased* in TO, is only *raze* in CS), *wave*. Howevr, th recent French loan *aide* loses final E, to align with *aid*.

I.1.3 EI-E, IE-E > E-E: *receive* > *receve*, *believe* > *beleve* These common TO patterns also indicate th long vowel twice, with th digraph EI or IE as well as ‘magic’ E, and th I can again usually be cut. TO *niece*, *piece*, *besiege*, *liege*, *hygiene*, *receive*, *achieve*, *believe*, *seize*, *frieze* then become CS *nece*, *pece*, *besege*, *lege*, *hygene*, *receve* (cf French *recevoir*), *acheve* (cf French *achever*), *beleve*, *seze*, *freze* (cf *eve*, *trapeze*, and se A.2.2.1 for TO *peace* also cut to CS *pece*, A.2.2.3 for *brethe*, A.2.2.4 for *leve*, E.2.1.3 for *fleece*, *Grece*, *sleve*, *sethe*, *breze*, *freze*). It will be noted that, despite th cut of -EIVE and -IEVE to -EVE, th related nouns *conceit*, *deceit*, *receipt* (CS *receit*), *belief* cannot lose their corresponding I, since **recet*, **belef* would be misred with a short E. In th case of TO *besiege*, *liege*, *hygiene* th substitution of J for soft G (se Chapter 4, §4) givs *beseje*, *leje*, *hyjene*. If proper names ar cut, th TO alternativs *Sheila/Shelagh* align as CS *Shela*. Because of their alternativ pronunciations, *either*, *neither* keep th EI digraph intact (but lose their second E by Rule 2); and CS *ceiling* similarly keeps its EI in order to cut its -ING by Rule 2. TO *medieval* (CS *medeval*) loses I to align with its cognate rhymes *coeval*, *primeval*, unless th word is analyzsd as having four syllabls with I-E in hiatus, thus *medi-eval*.

I.1.4 -EIR > -ER: *their* > *ther* Cutting I in *heir*, *their* givs CS *er*, *ther* (se A.2.4.2 *pear* — *per*, E.1.3 *there* — *ther* for parallel cuts).

I.1.5 -OI- usually retaind Th digraph OI as in *join* has a standard

sound value and is not normally cut. However, *porpoise*, *tortoise* are deemed to rhyme with *purpos* rather than with *noise* and are cut to CS *porpos*, *tortos* (final E here being exceptionally cut after S — see E.1.1.13 above; cf *rinoceros*). TO *choir* does not lose I, being deemed to rhyme with ‘French’ OI in the last syllable of *reservoir* (CS *coir*; but see H.2.1 for comment on ambiguity of TO *choir/coir*).

I.1.6 -IU > U: *juice* > *juce* When UI has the value of long U and the syllable ends in ‘magic’ E, the I is cut. TO *juice*, *sluice*, *bruise*, *cruise* thus become CS *juce* (cf French *jus*), *sluce*, *bruse*, *cruse* (cf *truce*, *ruse*). *Nuisance* similarly becomes *nusance*; applying [Rule 2](#) rather than Rule 1 would produce the alternative **nuisnce*, but (as confirmed under Rule 2, §1.6.1.XN) the I is felt to be more anomalous and more troublesome than the A, and is therefore the preferred cut. The I must be kept in *fruit*, *recruit*, *suit* in order to distinguish the long U from the short U in *but*.

I.1.7 Elision of I: *business* > *busness* When I is elided, it is cut, giving CS *busness* (cf Welsh *busnes*), *medcin*, *parlamnt*.

I.2 Listed under Rule 2. The following I-cuts are made by Rule 2, rather than by Rule 1.

I.2.1 Fertile — *fertl* American pronunciation suggests cutting I in *fertile* (CS *fertl*) and in similar words listed at E.1.1.8.1.

I.2.2 Representing post-accentual shwa In unstressed syllables occurring after the main stress, as in *fossil*, *victim*, *raisin*, *cushion*, *fashion*, *parishioner*, *Yorkshire*, *admiral*. Some of these might alternatively be considered as falling under I.1.7 above.

I.3 After G > J substitution: see [Chapter 4](#), §4 If soft G is respelt J, then I is cut when it previously chiefly served to show preceding soft G, as in *contagion*, *contagious*, *legion*, *region*, *religion*, *religious*, which then become *contajon*, *contajous*, *lejon*, *rejon*, *relijon*, *relijous*.

I.4 Y/I preferences A number of words have alternative TO spellings with I or Y. CS then recommends I when the vowel has short value (*gipsy* rather than **gypsy*), and Y when the vowel has long value (*tyro* rather than **tiro*); for full discussion of these preferences, see Y.3. For respelling I by Y in inflections and in -IGH, see [Chapter 4](#), §5, and in this chapter E.3.2, E.3.3 and G.2.4.

Redundant J

The letter J is almost never redundant in TO, so is scarcely cut. However, CS prefers the spelling *alleluia* without J to *hallelujah* with J (see also H.1.3), and

marijuana can become *mariuana*. For the potential of J for regularizing the spelling of soft G, DG by letter substitution, see [Chapter 4](#), §4.

Redundant K

K.1 KN- > N-: *knob > nob* Words written with initial silent K- before N in TO lose the K in CS. The TO forms *knack, knacker, knapsack, knave, knead, knee, knell, knew, knickers, knife, knight, knit, knob, knock, knot, knout, know, knowledge, known, knuckle* are then written *nack, napsack, nave, nead, ne, nell, new, nickers, nife, night, nit, nob, nock, not, nout, nown, nuckl*. In the process, mergers occur with TO *nave, new, nife, night, nit, not*, and the loss of redundant W produces further shortening to *no* for *know*, *noledge* for *knowledge* (final CS *nolej*; but that K is naturally kept in *aknolej*, where it is still pronounced). Users may hesitate at some of these new homographs, but the advantages of regularity and economy are regarded as paramount for CS.

K.2 -CK > -: *blackguard > blagard* Silent medial -CK- can be cut from *blackguard, Cockburn*, giving final CS *blagrd, Coburn*.

Redundant L

L.1 -OULD > -UD: *could > cud* The L is redundant in *could, should, would*, but CS also cuts the O, giving *cud, shud, wud* (see O.4.4). Despite the apparent rhyme with TO *cud, mud* etc, it is felt these short forms are the best. The letter U is inherently ambiguous in CS as well as in TO, but the patterns of sound-symbol correspondence for the vowel letters in such TO forms as *put, pudding, cloud, shroud, shoulder, gourd* suggest a basis of regularity for preferring *cud, shud, wud* to, say, *coud, woud, shoud* (indeed, in TO, OUD never has the value of -OULD in *would*, etc). The L in *could* has no etymological basis anyway, and the TO spelling tends to be confused with *cloud* by some beginning readers. A more radical reform than CS might prefer to write *cwd, hwd, wwd* (see [Chapter 6](#) for discussion of this idea) for these words, but such a substitution is not contemplated for CS.

L.2 AL- > A-: *salmon > samon* Insofar as the L in *almond, salmon* is silent, it is cut, giving *amond, samon* (cf French *amande, saumon*), although some speakers pronounce L in *almond*. In final CS, the name *Malcolm* becomes *Malcm*.

L.3 Silent L retained Several groups of common words, exemplified by *half, talk, calm, folk*, contain silent L, but it is doubtful whether the pronunciation of the preceding vowel is adequately represented if the L is cut, and in some cases actual ambiguity results. Pending more radical respelling of such words (eg, as

haaf, tauk, caam, foak or *fohk*), the L is therefore kept. Insofar as it indicates a non-standard value for the preceding vowel, it may be considered to have a kind of ‘magic’ function.

L.3.1 -ALF, -ALVE not cut *Calf, half* might be cut to **caf, *haf*, but ambiguity arises if L is omitted from *calve, halve*, producing **cave, *have*. It is true that TO *have* is written *hav* in CS, but the -ING form *havng* would still be ambiguous if *halving* were also cut to **havng*.

L.3.2 -ALK not cut If L were cut from *chalk, stalk, talk, walk*, the special value of the A would not be shown. This value is often found with following L, as in *all, stall, tall, wall, salt, alter*, but in *chalk, stalk, talk, walk* the L has fallen silent. Furthermore, actual ambiguity would arise without this L (**chak, *stak, *tak, *wak*), since by [Rule 3](#) (simplifying doubled consonants) CS cuts *stack, tack, whack* to *stak, tak, wak*.

L.3.3 -ALM not cut Less serious ambiguity would arise from cutting L in *alms, balm, calm, palm, psalm*; but the contrast with *am, cam, Pam, Sam* would be lost. Without L, there is no longer any indication that the preceding A may have a special, lengthening value. It is therefore recommended that L be kept in these words.

L.3.4 -OLK not cut The L is needed in *folk, yolk* if the long O is to be distinguished from the short O in words like TO *dock, lock*, which [Rule 3](#) cuts to CS *dok, lok*.

L.3.5 Colonel The L in *colonel* (formerly *coronel*) may be taken to indicate the special value of the preceding O, and is not cut. (See O.6 below and [Rule 2](#) for full CS *colnl*.)

Redundant M: *mnemonic* > *nemonic*

Initial M- in the Greek root for memory (*mnemonic, Mnemosyne*) is silent, and can be cut. After the prefix A- where this M is pronounced (*amnesia, amnesty*), it cannot be cut.

Redundant N: *condemn* > *condem*

CS cuts silent word-final N after M, giving *autum, colum, condem, dam, hym*, with inflected forms such as *columns, condemd*. The N is not cut when pronounced in derivatives such as *autumnal, columnar, condemnation, damnation, hymnal*. Whether the N is cut in *columnnist* must depend on pronunciation.

Redundant O

occurs especially in vowel digraphs.

O.1 EO > E: *people* > *peple* The following TO forms contain redundant O after short E: *jeopardy*, *Leonard*, *leopard*; and after long E: *people*. Without O they become *jepardy*, *Lenard*, *lepard*, *peple*, all of which more clearly represent the appropriate value of E. (See [Rule 2](#), 1.6.1.XL for the long E in *peple*.) The verb *enfeoff* cannot be cut in this way, since the O is needed to indicate the long value of the preceding E; but it might ideally be respelled to match its noun *fief*, giving *enfief*.

O.2 OE > E: *foetus* > *fetus* British spellings (especially medical terms) such as *foetus*, *oedema*, *oesophagus* (similarly *oecumenical*) lose their O to match the American spellings *fetus*, *edema*, *esophagus*, *ecumenical*. Similarly, British *manoeuvre* is cut to *maneuvr* to align more closely with American *maneuver*, which itself is cut to *maneuvr* by [Rule 2](#) (see also E.1.1.12.2 and E.2.1.9). CS makes the same cut even when American spelling does not already do so: TO *oedipal*, *Oedipus* become *edipal*, *Edipus*. The particular anomaly of soft C before O in TO *coelacanth* is overcome by removal of this O, giving CS *celacanth*.

O.3 OO > O: *blood* > *blod* If the standard value of OO are considered to be as in *good* and *food*, there are clear anomalies in TO *brooch*, *blood*, *flood*. If *brooch* is not merged with its cognate *broach*, it might be cut to *broch* by analogy with long O in *gross*, *roll*. *Blood*, *flood* can be cut to CS *blod*, *flod*, by analogy with the short O in *son*, *com*, *mother* etc. The disadvantage of such cuts is that they suggest rhymes with CS *boch*, *rod* etc, but they are nevertheless recommended for CS as they remove a blatant irregularity of TO and are more economical. Less controversial are CS *dor*, *flor*, whose spelling is thereby distinguished from *moor*, *poor*.

CS prefers the TO alternative *tabu* to *taboo*, both for its economy and because of the internationally accepted value of U, as opposed to the uniquely English and phonetically anomalous value of OO.

O.4 OU > U

O.4.1 *you* > *u*, *your* > *yr* TO *you* does not rhyme with *thou* and can be cut to *yu* (see Y.1 for the further cut to CS *u*). The possessives *your*, *yours* do not rhyme with *our*, *ours*, and would benefit from being cut; but there is no standard pronunciation to show which letters are redundant: some speakers pronounce *your* as a homophone of *yore*, others as a homophone of *ewer*, a variation which makes both the possible cut forms *yor*, *yur* problematic. CS therefore prefers the commonly used abbreviations *yr*, *yrs*, which can be distinguished from the abbreviations for *year*, *years* by giving the latter full stops (*1 yr.*, *2 yrs.*). It has been objected that CS should keep the visual link between *you/your*, but since

I/my, she/her and *we/our* show even less of a link, it is judged to be unimportant.

O.4.2 TO OU for long U: *through* > *thru* *Souvenir, troupe* are cut to *suvenir, trupe* (cf *superior, dupe*) and *through* to *thru* (cf TO *true* — CS *tru*). However, reducing OU to U is often impossible if the long value of U is not otherwise indicated: CS can hardly give *coup, ghoul, group, soup, tour, wound* (noun) the same vowel spelling as in *cup, full/gull, sup, fur, fund*. But since the ending -UTH always has long value for U in TO (*truth, Ruth*), TO *youth* can be cut to CS *yuth* (see also E.2.5 for TO *sleuth* — CS *sluth*). TO *route* poses a similar dilemma as TO *schedule* (see C.4), with different accents implying different cuts: for Americans it is often a homophone of *rout* and as such should lose its final -E, while for British speakers it rhymes with *brute*, and should lose its O (British TO therefore tends to keep the final E in the form *routeing*). If a standard spelling is to be kept for all accents, it may seem that the full original French spelling with both O and E should be retained. Either way, CS Rule 2 produces distinctions not found in the inflected forms in TO: TO inflects *rout* as *routs, routing, routed*, and *route* as *routes, rout(e)ing, routed*; CS, by the above proposal, would inflect *rout* as *routs, routng, routd*, and *route* as *routes, routing, routed*.

O.4.3 TO OU for short U: *touch* > *tuch* *Couple, courage, double, nourish, southern, touch, trouble, young* lose O, becoming *cupl, curage, dubl, nurish, suthern, tuch, trubl, yung* (cf TO *much, lung*, and full CS *supl, bubl* for TO *supple, bubble*); similarly *rough, tough* become *ruf, tuf*. See [Chapter 4](#), §4, for GE > J and §3 for GH > F substitution.

O.4.4 -OULD > -UD: *could* > *cud* *Could, should, would* become CS *cud, shud, wud* (see L.1 for discussion).

O.4.5 -OUR- > -UR-: *scourge* > *scurge* *Courtesy, scourge* become *curtesy, scurge* (final CS *scurj*; cf TO *curtsy, urge*).

O.4.6 -OUS > -US: *enormous* > *enormus* The common adjective ending -OUS is pronounced exactly as final -US (TO *callous/callus* are homophones), and it always loses its O in CS: *ambiguus, callus, curius, enormus, monstrus*. A number of words are thereby restored to their exact Latin forms: *anxius, dubius, exiguus, pius, nefarius, obnoxius, vacuus, varius*.

O.5 *moustache* > *mustach* British *moustache* is cut to American *mustache*; for the further cut to CS *mustach*, see E.1.1.17.

O.6 *colonel* > *colnel* TO *colonel* loses its second O (see also L.3.5 and Rule 2, which gives final CS *colnl*).

O.7 Loss of post-accentual shwa O by [Rule 2](#) For omission of O in unstressed endings such as *petrol, atom, button, doctor, glamour*, see Rule 2.

O.8 Word and two not cut It has been suggested that the anomalous value of O in TO *word, work, world, worm, worse, worship, worst, wort, worth, whorl* could be overcome by cutting the O, giving **wrd* etc. In unstressed position similar cuts are made by Rule 2, as when TO *foreword, forward* are distinguished as CS *forword, forwrd*. However, to cut a stressed vowel letter is a far more drastic procedure (the case of CS *yr* for TO *your* being exceptional, acceptable partly because the word is often unstressed), and it is not recommended for CS. It has also been suggested that the numeral *two* could be cut to just *tw* (the letter W having originated as UU); but this also seems too drastic, being at variance with all other English spelling patterns, and so is not adopted in CS either. Further discussion of the potential of W for use as a vowel letter will be found in [Chapter 6](#), §1.5.

Redundant P

P.1 Silent initial P: *psalm* > *salm* Silent initial P occurs mainly in words of Greek origin before N, S, T, as in TO *pneumatic, psalm, psalter, pseudo-, psittacosis, psoriasis, psychology, Ptolemy, ptomaine*, but also in one word of Gaelic origin, *ptarmigan*. In all these cases initial P is cut, giving *numatic, salm, salter, sudo-, sittacosis, soriasis, sycology, Tolemy, tomain, tarmigan* (the latter restoring the initial T of the original Gaelic *tarmachan*).

P.2 MP + consonant > M + consonant: *empty* > *emty* When P occurs between M and another consonant, it can be cut, since it adds nothing to the pronunciation, hence the TO alternatives for the homophones *Hampstead/Hamstead, Thompson/Thomson, Tompkins/Tomkins, sempstress/seamstress*; likewise, *dremt* is pronounced with as much (or as little) of a P as *empty* (for which Old English *æmtig* had no P). CS therefore writes *consumtion, emty, exemt, redemption, semstress, sumtuus, temt* etc (cf Welsh *temtio* ‘to temt’).

P.3 *receipt* > *receit* Dr Johnson inconsistently decided on grounds of usage that P should be kept in *receipt*, but not in *conceit, deceit*. CS harmonizes all three by cutting the P and writing *receit* (cf French *recette*).

P.4 *sapphire* > *saphire* The first P in *sapphire* is cut, giving *saphire* (cf French *saphir*), and with PH respelt as F (see [Chapter 4](#), §3), the final CS form *safire*.

P.5 Elided P before consonant: *cupboard* > *cubord* In a few words P is silent before a consonant (or assimilated by it), as in *raspberry, cupboard*. Cutting gives *rasberry, cubord* (final CS *rasbry, cubrd*).

P.6 Silent French -P: *coup* > *c(o)u* In a few French loans P is silent: *corps*, *coup*. Unless it is felt important to preserv international compatibility, cutting immediatly givs *cors* (se S.2 for cutting final S as well), *cou* — and if P is cut from *coup*, th O can also be cut, but not otherwise (CS *cou* or *cu*, but not *cup*).

P.7 PH > F: se [Chapter 4, §3](#) for th substitution of F for PH wen pronounced as F. This change applies mainly to words of Greek derivation, but to a few others too, such as *nephew*, *sulphur* (alredy American *sulfur*), *typhoon*, but not to words in wich th P and H hav ther own standard valu, such as *uphold*, and TO *shepherd* (by [Rule 2](#), full CS *sheprd*). Som PH words wer alredy written with F in Middl English (TO *pheasant* was Middl English *fesant*; cf Welsh *ffasant*), and TO *fantasy* has in th 20th century reverted to its erlier F after som centuris as *phantasy*.

Redundant Q

Alphabetically th letter Q is superfluous, since its sound can be represented by standard K. A few words alredy hav alternativ forms with C or K, such as American *bark*, *check*, *licorice* for British *barque*, *cheque*, *liquorice*, and *lackey*, *racket* for *lacquey*, *racquet*. CS recommends forms without Q: *bark*, *check*, *licorice*, *lacky*, *racket* (final CS *chek*, *licrice*, *raket*).

In som words Q is followd by silent U (eg, *lacquer*, *conquer*, *quay*, *technique*), wich CS cuts (se U 2.2). Another group of words loses final -UE (*masq*, *baroq*, *mosq* — se E.1.1.11 for loss of this final E).

Redundant R

R.1 R not normally cut Th letter R is rarely entirely omitted wher it occurs in TO, altho RR may be simplified to R. It is tru that most speakers in England and th suthern hemisphere normally only pronounce R if it precedes a vowel (they ar th so-cald ‘non-rotic’ speakers). However, because of th probably mor numerus (rotic) speakers who normally do pronounce R wherever it occurs, and because even non-rotic speakers vary in ther practis (in th phrase *mother and father*, they mostly pronounce R in *mother* but not in *father*, because th former precedes a vowel but th latter dos not), CS dos not normally cut single R.

R.2 R + shwa + R It might nevertheless be helpful to cut one R from words in wich an unstressed vowel between two Rs is cut by [Rule 2](#), §1.4.RR, since these patterns cause considrabl spelling difficulty in TO. Exampels ar *arbitrary*, *contrary*, *February*, *funerary*, *honorary*, *itinerary*, *literary*, *temporary* wich cud be cut to *arbitry*, *contry*, *Febry*, *funery*, *onry*, *itinry*,

litry, temptry. Th long I in *library* makes cutting any letters in that word rather mor dubious: altho *libry* represents a common pronunciation, th visual parallel with *litry* with its short I wud be anomalus; th form *libry* is nevertheless recommended for its economy.

Redundant S

S.1 Traditional silent S: *isle* > *ile* Th letter S is redundant in a few long-established words: *aisle, isle, island, demesne* (th S in *island, demesne* is unetymological). In CS these ar written *ile* (cf French *île*), *iland, demene*.

S.2 Final silent French s: *debris* > *debri* Sevral modern French loans end in silent S: *chamois, chassis, corps, debris, fracas*. CS can write *chamoi* (th goat) or *chami* (th lether), *chassi, cor, debri, fraca*, unless a decision of principl wer taken to respect international spelling forms.

S.3 -SE > -ZE: *organise* > *organize* Wenever TO offers a choice between th endings -SE and -ZE (often contrasting British and American conventions), CS prefers th latter: *raze, organize, analyz, cozy*. It wud be tempting to take this regularization to its limit, and respell with -IZE all words ryming with *prize* (eg, **advize, *advertize, *compromize, *surprize, *wize* — cf TO *wizard*), but th CS rules do not provide for this.

S.4-'s > -s: se [Chapter 5](#) for th simplified rule for th use of apostrophe befor S in CS.

S.5 SC- > C-: *conscious* > *concius* If, as suggested in C.7, SC representing th sound of SH can be considered for cutting to C, we find S can be cut to giv CS *conciencie, concius* and similarly from *fuchsia* to giv *fucia*. Elswher SC appears to hav th function of a dubl consonant, indicating a preceding short vowel, and th S is therfor kept in *fascist* (contrast th long A in *racist*), *aquiesce* (despite *aquiesd*), final CS *remnisce* (despite *remnisng*), and *luscious* (th Roman name *Lucius*, with its long U and its C pronounced as S, provides a counter-pattern here).

Redundant T

T.1 -TCH > -CH: *pitch* > *pich* Th letter T is redundant befor CH and cut so that *pitch, witch, hutch* parallel *rich, which, much, duchess*. This cut produces *thach, hachet* (cf French *hachette*), *fech, dich, boch, cluch, bucher* (cf French *boucher*), *picher* (by [Rule 2](#) then CS *buchr, pichr*) etc.

T.2 -FT- > -F-: *often* > *ofn* After F in *often, soften* th T is normally silent (tho somtimes pronounced in *often*), but can only be cut after applying Rule 2, to giv *ofn, sofn* (th forms **ofen, *sofen* wud hav th long vowel of *open*).

T.3 -ST- > -S-: *whistle* > *wisl* In some words T is redundant after S. Thus *whistle* can be written parallel to *missal*, without T (final CS *misl*, *wisl*), and not like *pistol*, whose T is pronounced. Writing -SL instead of -STL- gives *casl*, *nesl*, *pesl*, *tresl*, *wresl*, *brisl*, *episl*, *grisl*, *thisl*, *mislto*, *wisl*, *aposl*, *josl*, *throsl*, *busl*, *husl*, *rusl*; and similarly before -EN: *chasen*, *hasen*, *fasen*, *crisen*, *glisen*, *lisen*, *moisen* (but [Rule 2](#) cuts the last 5 further to *fasn*, *crisn*, *glisn*, *lisn*, *moisn*). Ambiguity arises between TO *bristling* with voiceless S and *brisling* with voiced S (final CS *brislng* for both; spelling the fish *brizlng* would preserve the distinction). It would be possible to cut the generally elided T in **Crismas*, **posman*, **waiscoat* etc if it were that unnecessary to preserve the morphemes *Christ*, *post*, *waist*. CS prefers the form *bosun* to *boatswain*. Modern German writes *Quarz*, *Walzer* for earlier *Quartz*, *Waltzer* which entered English with T (*quartz*, *waltz*), but to cut the T here would produce what is for English a non-standard symbol-sound correspondence.

T.4 Final silent French T: *depot* > *depo* Silent T occurs after vowels in French loans and can be cut to give the following forms: *depo*, *morgage*, *popourri*, *traï*. It cannot, however, be cut in final -ET as in *ballet*, *beret*, *bouquet*, *buffet*, *cabaret*, *chalet*, *crochet*, *croquet*, *parquet*, *ricochet*, *valet* because it here effectively indicates the sound value of the preceding E. A 'reformed' French spelling, such as *ballé* etc, would resolve the uncertainty of symbol-sound correspondence in these words, but the T of *valet* at least is often pronounced in English.

Redundant U

U.1 Aberrant value not cut The letter U has aberrant value in a few words, such as the noun *minut* (value modified to short I), the verb *bury* (pronounced as short E), and the adjective *busy* (and its derivative *business*), where U also has the value of short I. The U is not redundant in these words and not cut in CS.

U.2 U with consonant > - The letter U may be cut when used with the following consonants in TO:

U.2.1 After G

U.2.1.1 Hard GU+A, O > GA, GO: *guard* > *gard* In *guard*, *guarantee* (cf French *garde*, *garantie*), *languor* U is cut, giving CS *gard*, *garantee*, *langor* (by [Rule 2](#), CS *langr*). However, when U has the value of W after G, as in *guano*, *guava*, *languid*, *languish*, it is of course kept.

U.2.1.2 Hard GU+E, I, Y > GE, GI, GY: *guest* > *gest* Before the front vowels E, I, Y in TO *guelder*, *guer(r)illa*, *guess*, *guest*, *guide*, *guile*,

guillotine, guilt, guinea, (dis)guise, guitar, guy, th U servs to show th hard valu of preceding G. However, *guild, guilder* alre dy hav alternativ forms without U in *gild, gilder*, and *guilt* has a homophone in TO *gilt*. By analogy, therfor, th other words can shed ther silent U after G, giving *gelder, gerilla, gess, gest, gide, gile, gillotine, gilt, ginea, (dis)gise, gitar, gy*. Any long-term ambiguity vis-à-vis TO forms beginning with soft G (*gem, gin, ginger, gymnast*) is removed (as explaind in [Chapter 4](#), §4) by respelling all soft Gs as J; so for instance, if *guest* lost U, th CS form *gest* wud no longer appear as th first syllabl of TO *gesture*, since that wud be written *jestur*. But in th short term th loss of U in these words may appear somwat disturbing by comparison with TO patterns.

U.2.1.3 Final -GUE > -GE: *vague* > *vage* Similar factors apply to final -GUE in TO forms like *vague, fatigue, vogue, fugue*. If th soft valu of G is respelt J (se Chapter 4, §4) and words like TO *page, prestige, huge* ar written *paje, prestije, huje*, then U is no longer needed in final -GUE, nor in *Portuguese*, and CS can write *vage, fatigue, voge, fuge, Portugese*. For CS *tong* from TO *tongue*, se E.1.1.6.

U.2.2 Silent U in QU > Q: *plaque* > *plaq* CS drops U after Q wen QU is pronounced as K rather than as KW. This givs *opaque, cliqe, critiqe, tecniqe, brusqe, mosquito, qy* (for TO *quay*; cf A.5), *qu* (for TO *queue*), *conqer* (despite *conquest*). Th QU- in *quarter* is assumed pronounced as KW and is not cut. E.1.1.11 explains how -UE is lost after Q from *masque, plaque, arabesque, burlesque, cheque, grotesque, picaresque, picturesque, baroque, torque, mosque*, wich becom *masq, plaq, arabesq, burlesq, cheq, grotesq, picaresq, picturesq, baroq, mosq*.

U.2.3 -CU- not cut: *biscuit* Befor -IT in *biscuit, circuit*, U servs to indicate th hard valu of preceding C, and is needed to distinguish it from soft C as in *tacit*. A mor radical reform than CS wud be able to cut this U by writing *biskit, cirkit*. If it is assumed th U in *conduit* is pronounced, it will not be cut.

U.3 Redundant U with other vowels

U.3.1 AU- > A-: *fault* > *falt* Th letter U is redundant after A in *gauge* (*gage* is alre dy a variant in American spelling), *aunt, laugh, draught* (CS adopts th American form *draft*). After substituting F, J wher appropriat for GH, G (se [Chapter 4](#), §3 & 4), CS writes *gaje, ant* (assuming TO *aunt/ant* do not need to be distinguishd), *laf, draft*. Altho AU in *assault, fault* has its standard valu, these words rym with *salt* and ar cut to *assalt, falt*, so giving th latter th same vowel spelling as its related ajectiv *false*.

U.3.2 -UI- > -I-: *build* > *bild* CS cuts *build*, *building*, *built* to *bild*, *bilding*, *bilt*.

U.3.3 -OU- > -O-: *shoulder* > *sholder* Wen OU has th valu of O, wether long or short, CS normally cuts th U. *Although*, *cough*, *trough*, *though*, *mould*, *moult*, *smoulder*, *labour* (cf American spellings *mold*, *molt*, *smolder*, *labor*), *boulder*, *shoulder*, *soul* then becom *altho*, *cof*, *trof* (these last two by GH > F substitution — se [Chapter 4](#), §3), *tho*, *mold*, *molt*, *smolder*, *labor*, *bolder*, *sholder*, *sol* (se A.3.2 for reasons for not cutting TO *goal* etc to CS **gol*, and W.2 for TO *bowl* cut to CS *bol*). For TO *borough*, *thorough* th abbreviated forms *boro*, *thoro* ar alrely widely used, and ar adopted by CS. Th number *four* is pronounced as th first syllabl in *forty*, and might therfor be written without U; however, it is felt that ambiguity between th numerals *four*, *fourth* and th words *for*, *forth* wud be dangerous, so *four*, *fourth* ar kept in CS. On th other hand ther is no reason wy *fourteen* shud not be cut (as it alrely is in TO *fortnight*) to mach *forty*, giving CS *forteen*.

U.3.4 *buoy* > *boy* *Buoy*, *boy* ar deemd homophones (tho in som American accents they ar not) and ar both written *boy* in CS. Th American pronunciation ryming with *phooey* is ignord here, as it wud lead to a CS form *buy*, wich clashes with th TO verb *to buy*.

U.3.5 *buy* > *by* Th homophones *buy*, *by* merge as CS *by*.

Redundant V

Altho itself often associated with redundant letters in TO (especially befor final E as in *have*, *sleeve*, *serve* — se E.1.1.15), v itself is never redundant, and never cut in CS. In an ideal spelling system TO *of* wud be written *ov*, and *off* as just *of*, but this swich wud hav to be made in two stages and is not contemplated for CS.

Redundant W

W.1 Initial silent w

W.1.1 WH > H: *whole* > *hole* Initial W is redundant in TO *who*, *whose*, *whom*, *whole*, *whooping* (-*cough*), *whore*; indeed th W in th last thre is historically spurius, *whole* for instance being related to *hail*, *hale*, *heal*, wile *whoop*, *whore* ar cognate with German *hupen*, *Hure*. CS therfor writes *ho*, *hos*, *hom*, *hole*, *hooping*, *hor*, and is never temted to write *holistic* as *wholistic*, as somtimes occurs in TO.

W.1.2 WR- > R-: *wrist* > *rist* Initial w- is silent befor -R- in TO *wrack*, *wraith*, *wrangle*, *wrap*, *wrath*, *wreak*, *wreath*, *wreck*, *wren*, *wrench*,

wrest, wrestle, wretch, wriggle, wright, wring, wrinkle, wrist, writ, write, writhe, written, wrong, wrote, wroth, wrung, wry; th form *awry* derives from *wry*. Cutting W givs *rack, raith, rangl, rap, rath, reak, reath, reck, ren, rench, rest, resl, rech, riggl, right* (spelt *ryt* after -IGH > Y substitution as explained in [Chapter 4](#), §5), *ring, rinkl, rist, rit, rite, rithe, ritten, rong, rote, roth, rung, ry, ary*. Normal application of CS rules wud reduce *wrought* to *rot*; for possibl solutions to this ambiguity, se G.2.5.6.

W.2 Medial silent w: sword > sord Medial w is silent after s in *answer, sword* and after varius consonants wen initiating unstressd final syllabls in som place-names (eg, *Chiswick, Norwich, Southwark, Southwell, Welwyn*). Cutting givs *anser, sord*, and *Chisick, Norich, Suthark, Suthell, Welyn*. TO *boatswain, gunwale* lose w by adopting alternativ TO forms *bosun, gunnel* (final CS *gunl*). *Housewife* in th sense of *needlecase* has th TO alternativ *hussif*. Just as TO *soul* is cut to *sol* (U.3.3), so TO *bowl* is cut to CS *bol* (cf French *bol*), so removing th ambiguity with *fowl, howl, owl* etc (Rule 2 cuts TO *bowel* to CS *bowl*, wich entails confusion with TO *bowl*, but no confusion within CS itself). TO *knowledge, acknowledge* hav short o and ar cut to *noledg, acknoledg* (and then, by DG > J substitution, to final CS *nolej, aknolej* — se [Chapter 4](#)).

Th numeral *two* cud in theory be cut to *to*, but th danger of confusion with th preposition *to* is serius, and th spelling of such a common word is soon lernt, however irregular; *two* therfor remains uncut. Se [Chapter 6](#) §1.5 for further discussion of th potential of W in such spellings.

W.3 Final -OW > -O Final OW pronounced as in *low* loses W, to align with *go*. This valu of -OW occurs in many monosyllabic and disyllabic words, and is prone to confusion with th standard valu of OW as in *how* (non-nativ speakers in particular tend to confuse th two valus of -OW). Cutting this W also enables th two pronunciations of *bow, row, sow* to be distinguishd as in *rainbo/bow of a ship, roing boat/to hav a furius row, to so seeds/a sow with piglets*.

W.3.1 Monosyllabic -OW > -O: blow > blo Exampels include *bow, blow, crow, flow, glow, grow, know, low, mow, ow(e), row, show, sow, slow, snow, stow, throw*, wich CS rites as *bo, blo, cro, flo, glo, gro, no, lo, mo, o, ro, sho, so, slo* (cf *sloth*), *sno, sto, thro*. Just as an exeption had to be made with th final E of *toe* (se E.1.2.3) to avoid ambiguity with TO *to*, so th W needs to be kept in *tow*. Only th long term solution of respelling *do, to, who* in accordance with ther pronunciation can overcom this difficulty, but such changes ar not envisaged within th CS rules.

W.3.2 Problems of cutting OW + suffix Special provisions ar needed to prevent misleading, occasionally ambiguous forms wen som inflections ar added to monosyllabic verbs ending in TO -OW. Th problem

arises from the fact that English words can end in a single vowel letter with long value (*me, ski, go, flu*), but when some regular CS suffixes are added, the vowel letter may seem to have a short value, as when, by the simple addition of the past tense suffix -D, *ski* would become **skid*.

W.3.2.1 -OWN uncut For that reason, a preceding W cannot be cut from past participles ending in N: *sown* cannot be cut to *son*, any more than *own* can be cut to *on*. CS therefore keeps the W in TO *blown, grown, nown, mown, shown, sown, thrown*, despite the confusing parallel with *brown, gown, town* etc. More radical respelling (eg, *sohn, mohn*, etc) would overcome this problem, but is not envisaged for CS.

W.3.2.2 Cutting -OWED: *crowed* > *croed* Past tense forms ending in -D on the other hand do cut the W in CS (*crowed* must not become *crowd*), but have to keep the silent E instead (*rowed* cannot be cut to *rod*). This gives CS forms *boed, croed, floed, gloed, loed, moed, oed, roed, sloed, snoed, stoed*. By CS patterns, this ending is morphemically regular, since the normal CS past tense suffix of just -D is extended to -ED after a vowel in monosyllables, as after E in CS *ke/keed* (TO *key/keyed*), after I in *ski/skied*, and after U in *glu/glued*. The TO forms *show, tow* are, however, awkward because of the danger of ambiguity with forms of *shine* (CS *shon*), *shoe* (TO *shod, shoed*), the preposition *to* and the past tense of *toe* (*toed*). It is therefore suggested that TO *showed, towed*, with the above pattern would reduce to **shoed, *toed* should, exceptionally, be spelt *showd, towd* in CS, despite the ambiguity of sound-symbol correspondence with *cowd, vowd*.

W.3.2.3 -OWY The formation of adjectives by addition of the suffix -Y likewise causes problems in the case of TO forms ending in -OW rhyming with *low* (TO *showy, snowy*). The simple omission of W produces apparent rhymes with *boy* (**shoy, *snoy*), and to prevent this the W is retained in CS. This may be additionally justified because a /w/ glide is in fact pronounced between the O and the Y. Alternatively an E could be inserted (as before the past tense suffix -D), giving *shoey, snoey*; such forms would be supported by the analogy of TO *goeey* or a potential TO adjective such as *potatoey* (not *potatoy* or *potatowy*). However, the retention of W in CS *showd* is a further argument in favor of *showy* rather than *shoey*, and the derivation *sho-showy* is then a model for *sno-snowy*. The decisive factor must, however, be the fact that *showy* is also the TO form.

W.3.2.4 *owing* > *oing, ows* > *os* There is no problem in cutting the W from any of the above words (except *tow*) before -ING (cf *going*), giving CS *boing, bloing, croing, oing, roing, soing, shoing, snoing* etc. Although there is no direct model in TO for adding a simple S to form the plural of monosyllables ending in O (cf TO monosyllabic *goes*, but polysyllabic *pianos*), CS can do so (CS *pianos, gos, bos, blos, cros, os, shos, snos* etc), provided of course that

CS retains final SS after short O (cf TO *crow/crows, cross*, final CS *cro/cros, cross*).

If these complications are felt to outweigh the advantages of the cuts, the misleading final W and/or the E of the TO inflections -ED, -ES could be kept in these monosyllables, leaving *showed, goes, shows*, etc. It goes without saying that if English spelling unambiguously represented pronunciation (with forms such as *shohd, gohz, shohz*, etc), none of these problems would arise.

W.3.3 Disyllabic -OW > -O: *follow* > *follo* This ending occurs in *meadow, shadow, widow; callow, fallow, gallows, hallow, mallow, sallow, shallow, swallow, tallow, wallow, bellow, fellow, yellow, billow, pillow, willow, follow, hollow; minnow, winnow; arrow, barrow, farrow, harrow, marrow, narrow, yarrow, borrow, morrow, sorrow, burrow, furrow; window*; there is also one trisyllabic word with this ending, *bungalow*. Final W is cut from all these words, giving *medo, shado, wido; callo, fallo, gallos, hallo, mallo, sallo, shallo, swallo, tallo, wallo, bello, fello, yello, billo, pillo, willo, follo, hollo; minno, winno; arro, barro, farro, harro, marro, narro, yarro, morro, sorro; windo; bungalo*. (See under Rule3, §2.2.3.O, for discussion of possible ambiguity between the CS forms of such words as TO *hallow/hallo/halo* and *borough/borrow*.)

Suffixes cause few problems. The addition of past-tense -D (*follod, borrod*) will hardly be confused with the few words ending in -OD in TO (*method, period, synod, tripod*), whose structure is otherwise fairly distinct. The -S inflections simply align with the pattern of TO *piano+s*. A difficulty does arise, however, with TO *shadowy, yellowy*, which need to follow the pattern of TO *showy, snowy* as discussed in W.3.2.3 and so keep the W (alternatively they might be written with -EY as *shadoey, yelloey*, but since this involves letter substitution it is not recommended for CS).

Redundant X

X.1 Final silent French x Although the letter X has several pronunciations in English, it is only silent in a few French loans. CS could write TO *choux, prix, Sioux* as *ch(o)u, pri, Su* if international compatibility were not paramount.

X.2 -X- or -CT-? Faced with alternatives such as *connexion/ connection* etc, CS has to choose between the more economical -XION, or the more usual -CTION ending. *Complexion, crucifixion* are the only words always spelt with -XION in TO, while many words always have CT (eg, *attraction, direction, depiction, concoction, reduction*). Those with alternative forms are *connection, inflection, fluction*, and it is felt to be more helpful for them to follow the dominant pattern with CT, and not X. The words *reflectiv, reflexiv* would in any event remain distinct.

X.3 *ecstasy* or *extasy*? Despite more economical earlier forms such as *extasy* and French *extase*, CS rules do not provide for a change to TO *ecstasy*.

Redundant Y

Y.1 *you* > *u* The personal pronoun TO *you* misleadingly suggests a rhyme with *thou*, and is cut to CS *u*. O.4.1 mentioned *yu* as a possible cut form, but initial *yu* is uncommon in TO, *yule* being a rare native English example. It is true that CS cuts TO *youth* to *yuth*, and *young* to *jung*, but these forms reinforce standard letter values by removing the parallel between *youth/south*, and by establishing parallels between *yuth/truth* (cf E.2.1.6 for CS *sluth* from TO *sleuth*), *jung/lung*. On the other hand *yu* does not easily fall into line with existing patterns of English spelling, rather resembling a Chinese name. The one-letter form *u* is preferred to *yu* for its economy and distinctiveness, and because it is commonly used as a short form of *you* already. For several reasons *u* immediately suggests the correct pronunciation: it is a homophone of the name of the letter concerned, which means it has the same pronunciation in acronyms like *IOU* (*I o u* being the full CS spelling for *I owe you*); and it is the shortest existing spelling of the sound (as in *use*, *emu*). Although U has some 5 standard values in English, only one pronunciation is possible when it occurs in isolation as *u*: initial U can have the value in *up* or in *unit*, final U can have the value in *unit* or in *tru*; but as the word *u* has the letter both in initial and in final position, only the value in *unit* can arise. (As it happens, *u* is one of the words used in Dutch for *you*, so, visually at least, it strengthens the international links of English.)

Y.2 Redundant post-vocalic Y: *key* > *ke* Cases of redundant Y occur after E in TO *geyser*, *key* and the names *Seymour*, *Reynard*, *Reynolds*. These are cut, giving *geser*, *ke* (see also A.2.1, E.1.2), and in final CS *Semor*, *Renrd*, *Renlds*.

Y.3 I for short value, Y for long value: *gipsy/tyro* Some words have alternative spellings with I and Y, as previously mentioned under I.4, above. CS makes a deliberate choice in the direction of regularity, using I for the short I value, and Y for the long value. Thus CS prefers the I spelling for *bogi*, *caddi* (from TO *bogie*, *caddie*), *gipsy*, *laniard*, *lichgate*, *pigmy*, *pixi* (from TO *pixie*), *sillabub*, *silvan*. On the other hand, the Y spelling is preferred for the long vowel value in *cyder*, *cypher*, *dyke*, *gybe*, *gyro*, *syphon*, *tyre*, *tyro*; we note *tyre* as a rare case where a British form is preferred to its American alternative (*tire*). Other words are cut to emphasize the same long value for Y: *ay*, *aye*, *eye* all become CS *y*, and *bye*, *buy* both become CS *by*. Similarly *dye*, *rye* become *dy*, *ry*, and *analyze*, *dyke*, *gybe*, *pyre*, *rhyme*, *style*, *type*, *tyre* can be reduced to *analyz*, *dyk*, *gyb* (or *jyb* after G > J substitution), *pyr*, *rym*, *styl*, *typ*, *tyr* (cf E.1.2.5, E.1.2.6). The Scottish place names *Argyll*, *Rosyth* and the surname *Forsyth*

provide models for this use of Y. [Chapter 6](#), §1.3.2, discusses the advantages of using Y more systematically to represent long I, and [Chapter 4](#), §5, discusses how Y may also serve to replace IGH (cf also G.2.4) in *high*, *sight* etc and IE in TO *simplified* (giving *hy*, *syt*, *simplifyd*).

Y.4 -EY > -Y: *donkey* > *donky* Words ending in -EY pronounced /i/ are normally cut to just -Y: *abby*, *donky*, *chimny*. It may be noted that in many cases there is no historical reason why a word ends in -EY and another in just -Y: *countrey* could equally well have followed the pattern of *chimney*, or *chimny* the pattern of *country*. The TO pair *alley/ally* are kept distinct in CS by [Rule 3](#) as *ally/aly* respectively, but create some confusion between TO and CS. (See [Rule 3](#) for further details of *alley/ally*, and E.2.3, E.3.2, E.3.3 for further details of treatment of the I, IE, Y, EY, IS, IES, YS, EYS endings.)

Y.5 Miscellaneous alternatives to Y The alternative TO forms *pajamas*, *scalawag* are preferred in CS to *pyjamas*, *scallywag* for reasons of sound-symbol correspondence and economy respectively.

Redundant Z

The letter Z is not normally omitted, though [Rule 3](#) simplifies ZZ in CS. In two special cases Z combines with C to form the digraph CZ: in *Czech* we may say that the Z is needed to show that the initial C is pronounced as CH and not as a normal C (by this argument **Cech* would be inadequate, unless, as has been suggested, the Italian spelling *cello* is taken as a model, reinforced by the Czech form of the word itself, *Čech*); the form *czar* is discarded in favor of *tsar*, as the latter better represents a possible English pronunciation, which is incidentally also the Russian value; see also C.8. Although silent in French words like *laissez-faire* and *rendezvous*, the Z is needed to show the special pronunciation of the preceding E (**laisse-fair*, **rendevu* would be inadequate, even if the loss of international validity were acceptable). Many other letters used with Z can, however, be omitted: *baize*, *gauze*, *freeze*, *seize*, *bronze* are cut to *baze*, *gauz*, *freze*, *seze*, *bronz* in CS. American spellings of voiced S with Z are preferred to traditional British forms with S, thus CS *brazier*, *cognizant*, *cozy*, *organize*, *analyze*.