

**CHAPTER III**  
**THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED**  
**CHANGES ON WORD FORMATION**

**(a) Prefixes**

In New Spelling prefixes have a fixed form, whenever possible. Allowance must, however, sometimes be made for the existence of alternative pronunciations. But in only three cases (*dis-*, *equi-*, *sur-*) will more than two different spellings be required, even though certain prefixes (e.g. *de-*, *pro-*, *hypo-*) may be sounded in more than two ways. Occasionally the insertion of the dæresis or a hyphen will prove to be a useful pointer to pronunciation.

1. The following prefixes would remain unchanged—

|             |               |        |                    |
|-------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| abs-        | dia-          | male-  | pros-              |
| ambi-       | em-           | meta-  | retro-             |
| an- (Greek) | en-           | mis-   | semi- <sup>1</sup> |
| ana-        | endo          | mono-  | sub-               |
| ante-       | epi-          | multi- | subter-            |
| anti-       | for-          | non-   | tetra-             |
| apo-        | forth-        | ob-    | to- <sup>2</sup>   |
| be-         | hemi-         | out-   | ultra-             |
| bene        | hetero-       | pan-   | un-                |
| bis-        | homo- (Greek) | panto- | under              |
| demi-       | mal-          | peri-  | up-                |

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<sup>1</sup> Except in a few words, mostly very rare, where a final *i* of the prefix would be changed to *y* before a vowel. The only ones that are at all common are *semyofishal* and *demy-ofishal*.

<sup>2</sup> *To* is proposed as a conventional 'word-sign,' the *o* being a contraction of *oo*. See Appendix II.

## 2. The following prefixes would be changed—

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>Newspelling</i>                | <i>Examples</i>                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| af-                 | a-                                | afekt                               |
| ag-                 | a-                                | agreev                              |
| al-                 | a-                                | aleevyakt                           |
| amphi-              | amfi-                             | amfitheater                         |
| an- (Latin)         | a-                                | anouns                              |
| ap-                 | a-                                | apeel                               |
| ar-                 | a-, ar-                           | araenj, arrogant                    |
| as-                 | a-                                | asurt, ashuur                       |
| at-                 | a-                                | atempt                              |
| back-               | bak-                              | bakboen                             |
| by-                 | bie-                              | biegon                              |
| cat-                | kat-                              | katekizm                            |
| cata-               | kata-                             | katastrofe                          |
| circum-             | surkum-                           | surkumvent                          |
| cis-                | sis-                              | sisalpien                           |
| col-                | ko-                               | kolekt                              |
| contra-             | kontra-                           | kontradikt                          |
| cor-                | ko-, kor-                         | korekt, korrelaet                   |
| counter-            | kounter-                          | kounterfoil                         |
| dif-                | di-                               | difikult                            |
| exo-                | ekso-                             | eksogamus                           |
| extra-              | ekstra-                           | ekstramueral                        |
| im-                 | i-                                | imortal                             |
| ir-                 | i-                                | irigaet                             |
| of-                 | o-                                | ofend                               |
| over-               | oever-                            | oever-whelm                         |
| post-               | poest-                            | poestpoen                           |
| preter-             | preeter-                          | preeternatueral                     |
| suf-                | su-                               | sufiks, sufishent                   |
| supra-              | suepra- (with<br>variant suupra-) | suepradental (or suupra-<br>dental) |
| syn-                | sin-                              | sintaks, sinkopaet                  |
| with-               | widh- (with<br>variant with-)     | widhstand (or with-<br>stand)       |

## 3. The following prefixes would have more than one form, according to the pronunciation—

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i>                                     | <i>Examples</i>  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| a- (Greek)          | a-, ae-   | amorfus, aetheist  |
| ab-                 | ab-, a-   | abstrakt, abreevyaet                                     |
| ae-                 | ak-, a-   | aksident, akumpany                                       |
| ad-                 | ad-, a-   | admier, adishon  |
| arch-               | arch-, ark-   | archbishop, arkaenjel                                    |
| auto-               | auto-, autoe-   | autonomus, automatic,<br>autoesujeschon                  |
| bi-                 | bi-, bie-   | bigamus, biënyal, biesikl                                |
| co-                 | ko-, koe-   | koales, koetenant  |
| com-                | kom-, ko-   | kombien, komit   |
| con-                | kon-, ko-   | kondoel, konekt  |
| de-                 | de-, dee-   | deriev, defamaeshon,<br>deesentraliez, deoksidiez        |
| di-                 | di-, die-   | diminish, dieluet, diëlektrik                            |
| dis-                | dis-, di-, diz-   | distinkt, dissurvis, disekt, dizeez                      |
| e-                  | e-, ee-   | evolv, eelonggaet  |
| ex-                 | eks-, egz-  | eksplaen, eksekuet, egzakt                               |
| equi-               | ekwi-, eekwi-,<br>eekwy-                                | ekwivokal, eekwidistant,<br>eekwyangguelar               |
| hyper-              | hieper-, hiepur-  | hieperkritikal, hiepurbola                               |
| hypo-               | hipo-, hiepo-   | hipokrisy, hipokrit,<br>hiepotenuetz, hiepodurmik        |
| in-                 | in-, i-   | independent, inosent                                     |
| inter-              | inter- intur-   | interfeer, inturstis                                     |
| para-               | parra-, para-   | parrafraez, paralisis                                    |
| per-                | pur-, per-  | purmyaet, perseev, peroraeshon                           |
| poly-               | poli-, poly-  | poligamy, politeknik,<br>polyanthus                      |
| pre-                | pre-, pree-   | prevent, preesupoez                                      |
| pro-                | pro-, pree-   | proklaem, proklamaeshon,<br>proelog                      |
| pseudo-             | suedoe-, suedo- <sup>1</sup>                            | suedoesiëns, suedo-eduekaeshon,<br>suedonim              |
| re-                 | re-, ree-   | return, reëstablish, reekonstrukt                        |
| super-              | sueper-, suepur-<br>(with variants<br>suuper-, suupur-) | sueperseed, suepurlativ,<br>(or suuperseed, suupurlativ) |

<sup>1</sup> Those who sound the initial *p* could write it, thus *psuedoesiëns*, *psuedo-eduekaeshon*, *psuedonim*.

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>New spelling</i>         | <i>Examples</i>                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| sur-                | sur-, ser-, se-             | surfit, surreptishus,<br>serpriez, serender |
| sus-                | sus-, su-                   | suspend, suseptibl                          |
| sym-                | sim-, si-                   | simfony, simetry                            |
| trans-              | trans-, tranz- <sup>1</sup> | transfur, tranzakshon                       |

**(b) Endings**

## 1. The following endings would remain unchanged—

|       | <i>Examples</i> |
|-------|-----------------|
| -ant  | important       |
| -dom  | kingdom         |
| -eer  | charyoteer      |
| -ent  | evident         |
| -est  | graetest        |
| -hood | manhood         |
| -ish  | chieldish       |
| -ity  | brevity         |
| -kin  | napkin          |
| -ling | darling         |
| -ly   | frendly         |
| -oid  | tabloid         |
| -ry   | pedantry        |
| -ship | lordship        |
| -sy   | heresy          |
| -ward | forward         |
| -y    | wooly           |

2. The terminations *-ing* and *-ist* would remain unchanged, except that it might be desirable to add a diæresis in some words when *o* precedes, as in *egoïst*. It would not be necessary to add a diæresis in *going*, *throing*, etc., since the ordinary *oi* diphthong never occurs before *ng*.

3. The following endings containing long vowels or diphthongs may be simplified without difficulty as follows—

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i> | <i>Examples</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| -ate                | -aet                | imitaet         |
| -ene                | -een                | benzeen         |

<sup>1</sup> Speakers who sound *aa* in all or any of these words could write *traaxs-*, *traanz-*.

| <i>Old Spelling</i>                 | <i>New Spelling</i> | <i>Examples</i>             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| -fy                                 | -fie                | magnifie                    |
| -ier (when pronounced <i>-eer</i> ) | -eer                | gondoleer                   |
| -ile                                | -iel <sup>1</sup>   | hostiel                     |
| -ine                                | -ien, -een          | divien, turpientien, mareen |
| -ise, -ize                          | -iez                | authoriez, dogmatiez        |
| -ose                                | -oes                | rnoroes, gluukoos           |
| -tude                               | -tued               | magnitued                   |

4. The undermentioned terminations containing short vowels may also be simplified without difficulty as under—

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i>    | <i>Examples</i>                 |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| -ance               | -ans                   | importans                       |
| -asm                | -azm                   | enthuezyazm                     |
| -cy                 | -sy                    | legasy                          |
| -cal-               | -yal                   | corporyal                       |
| -ence               | -ens                   | evidens                         |
| -fic                | -fik                   | prolifik                        |
| -ful                | -fool                  | plentifool                      |
| -ic                 | -ik                    | komik                           |
| -ice                | -is                    | justis                          |
| -ine                | -in                    | doktrin                         |
| -ism                | -izm                   | kritisizm                       |
| -ive                | -iv                    | pensiv                          |
| -less               | -les                   | helples                         |
| -logue              | -log                   | epilog                          |
| -ness               | -nes                   | goodnes                         |
| -our                | -or                    | kulor                           |
| -ous                | -us                    | tremendus                       |
| -sion               | -shon, -zhon           | manshon, purmishon,<br>okaezhon |
| -some               | -sum                   | handsum                         |
| -tion               | -shon, -chon,<br>-tyon | atenshon, sujeschon,<br>bastyon |
| -trix               | -triks                 | inheritriks                     |

5. Terminations such as *-ia*, *-ial*, *-ean*, *-ian*, *-eous*, *-ious* will vary according to the pronunciation. In most

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<sup>1</sup> Those who pronounce this ending with short *i* might prefer to write it *-il*.

cases they would be written *-ya, -yal, -yan, -yan, -yus, -yus, etc.*, thus: *maenya, meenyal, subteraenyan, barbaeryan, pityus, industryus, etc.* Where, however, the sound of *sh* or *ch* or *j* precedes, these endings would be written *-a, -al, -an, -an, -us, -us, etc.*, the *i* or *e* of present spelling not being sounded, thus: *milisha, komurshal, oeshan, optishan, hurbaeshus, preshus, jenshan, theoloejan, etc.* See Appendix IV.

*Y* would be introduced in such words as *oeshyanik, komurshyality*, because of the pronunciation.

6. We recommend that the terminations *-iel, -ien* as in *spaniel, alien* be written *-yel, -yen*. See Appendix IV.

7. The *e* should be dropped in the endings *-ble, -cle, -dle, -gle, -kle, -ple, -tle, etc.*

| <i>Old Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i> | <i>Examples</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| -ble                | -bl                 | vizibl          |
| -cle                | -kl                 | orakl           |
| -ple                | -pl                 | multipl         |

8. The ending *-ure* presents several difficulties because it is pronounced in different ways, cp. *allure, mature, overture, pressure, gesture, procedure*. On the whole it seems best to write *-uer* in both stressed and unstressed positions, except after *sh, zh* and *j*, when the short form *-er* may be used: thus *aluer, matuer, epikuer, figuer, jestuer, naetuer, proseeduer*, but *presher, tonsher, azher, mezher, injer*. The use of *-uer* should be extended to derivatives like *natural, centurion, figurative*, thus (New Spelling) *natueral, sentueryon, figuerative*. But *injuuryus*<sup>1</sup> is recommended for Old Spelling *injurious*.

9. The unstressed terminations *-ace, -ade, -age, -ate, -ain, -ange, eign, -iage* when pronounced with a short *i* or an obscure vowel may be written with *e*, e.g.—

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<sup>1</sup> Note also New Spelling *shuar* for *sure* (cf. p. 51).

| <i>Old spelling</i> | <i>New spelling</i> | <i>Examples</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| -ace                | -es                 | furnes          |
| -ade <sup>1</sup>   | -ed                 | komred          |
| -age                | -ej                 | kabej           |
| -ate                | -et                 | prievet         |
| -ain                | -en                 | mouten          |
| -ange               | -enj                | orrenj          |
| -eign               | -en                 | forren          |
| -iage               | -ei, -yej           | karrej, foelyej |

10. The unstressed terminations *-ane*, *-ave*, may be written *-aen*, *-aev*, or *-en*, *-ev* according to the pronunciation, e.g. *mundaen*, *konklaev*, but *huriken*, *oktev*. *Mullein* may be written *mulen*.

11. The termination *-er* would generally remain unchanged. It would, however, be convenient to reduce it to *-r* after *ue* and *oi*, e.g. *fuer* (Old Spelling *fewer*), *pursuer*, *emploir*. After *a*, *e* and *u* (shortened from *ae*, *ee*, *uu* respectively) a diæresis should be added, e.g. *gaër* (Old Spelling *gayer*), *freër*, *bluër*.

12. Final pronounced e in words of foreign origin may be left unchanged, e.g. *andante*, *apostrofe*, *ekstempore*, *finaale* (Old Spelling *finale*), *faksimile*.

### (c) Changes in the Stem

Generally speaking, it is desirable that derivatives should keep the spelling of the parent word unchanged or almost unchanged, so as to reveal the connexion between them clearly. We therefore write in new spelling *wed*, *weding*, *weded*, *noet*, *noetabl*, *noetaeshon*, *history*, *historyan*, *vaery*, *vaeryaeshon*, *vaeryabl*.

There are cases where the proposed changes would tend to obscure the connexion between related words.

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<sup>1</sup> But, when stressed, *-ade* would be written *-aed*, e.g. *barrikaed*, *kavalkaed*. Also in *dekaed*.

Such are—

| <i>Present Spelling</i> |              | <i>Proposed Spelling</i> |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| atrocious               | atrocitv     | atroeshus                | atrosity     |
| fable                   | fabulous     | faebl                    | fabuclus     |
| finite                  | infinite     | fieniet                  | infinet      |
| introduce               | introduction | introdues                | introdukshon |
| lose                    | lost         | luuz                     | lost         |
| maniac                  | maniacal     | maenyak                  | maniakl      |
| oration                 | oratory      | oraeshon                 | orratory     |
| penalize                | penalty      | peenaliez                | penalty      |
| punish                  | punitive     | punish                   | puenitiv     |
| say                     | says         | sae                      | sez          |
| serene                  | serenity     | sereen                   | serenity     |
| sulphur                 | sulphuric    | sulfur                   | sulfuerik    |
| vice                    | vicious      | vies                     | vishus       |
| volcano                 | volcanic     | volkaenoe                | volkanik     |
| wil                     | would        | wil                      | wood         |
| zeal                    | zealous      | zeel                     | zelus        |

In other cases the new spelling renders the connexions between words clearer than at present. Such are—

| <i>Present Spelling</i> |            | <i>Proposed Spelling</i> |            |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| bid                     | bidding    | bid                      | biding     |
| cat                     | kitten     | kat                      | kiten      |
| complex                 | complicate | komplek                  | kompukaet  |
| demolish                | demolition | demolish                 | demolishon |
| duke                    | ducal      | duek                     | duekal     |
| humour                  | humorous   | huemor                   | huemorus   |
| occur                   | occurring  | okur                     | okuring    |
| pity                    | piteous    | pity                     | pityus     |
| propel                  | propelling | propel                   | propeling  |
| vapour                  | vaporize   | vaepor                   | vaeporiez  |
| vicious                 | vitiate    | vishus                   | vishyaet   |

## CHAPTER IV

### THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE ON THE RULES OF ACCIDENCE

(a) Inflexion of Nouns (genitive, plural) and verbs (3rd sing. pres. indic.); (b) plurals in *-en* and irregular plurals; (c) Adjectives: degrees of comparison; (d) Formation of Adverbs; (e) Verb: form in *-ing*.  
 (f) Verb: formation of past tense and of past participle of weak verbs;  
 (g) Verb: formation of past tense and of past participle of strong verbs.

The addition of inflexions follows certain rules to be found in all grammars. These would be to some extent modified if the proposed changes were adopted, and would run as follows—

(a) *Inflexion of nouns (genitive, plural and verbs (3rd sing. pres. indic.)—*

|   | <i>Noun.</i>  | <i>Verb.</i>   |
|---|---|--|
| When the stem ends in a voiceless sound other than <i>s</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>ch</i> : add <i>s</i> (with apostrophe for genitive <sup>1</sup> )   | kats<br>pips<br>ruufs<br>roks                               | hits<br>peeps<br>laafs<br>speeks                           |
| When the stem ends in a vowel or in a voiced consonant other than <i>z</i> , <i>zh</i> or <i>j</i> : add <i>z</i> (with apostrophe for genitive <sup>1</sup> ). When the stem ends in <i>y</i> , change to <i>i</i> | dogz<br>hilz<br>daez<br>boiz<br>klauz<br>bouz<br>sitiz      | bidz<br>telz<br>paez<br>emploiz<br>drauz<br>bouz<br>enviz  |
| When the stem ends in <i>s</i> , <i>z</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>zh</i> , <i>ch</i> or <i>j</i> : add <i>ez</i> (for genitive ' <i>ez</i> , <i>ez</i> ' <sup>1</sup> .)   | horsez<br>roeez<br>dishez<br>miraazhez<br>churchez<br>aejez | dresez<br>freezez<br>wishez<br>ruuzhez<br>reechez<br>urjez |

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix VI.

## Special cases—

Nouns in *f* have *f* 's in genitive, *fs* or *vz* in plural: *ruuf*, *ruufs*  
but *loef*, *loevz*.

The plural of *hous* is *houzez*.

(Note.—There is nothing in the spoken language corresponding to the apostrophe in the possessives *dog's*, *dogs'*, and its absence is not missed. Some are of the opinion that there is no more need for it in the written language than in the spoken. See, however, Appendix VI.)

(b) *Plurals in -en and irregular plurals—*

There are a few plurals in *-en—*

oks: oksen; chield: children.

## Irregular plurals—

man: men

wooman: wimen

foot: feet

guus: gees

tuuth: teeth

mous: mies

lous: lice

(c) *Adjectives*. The *degrees of comparison* are formed by adding *-er* (*-r* after *oe*, *oi*, *ue*), *-est*, e.g.—

|       |         |          |      |                   |         |
|-------|---------|----------|------|-------------------|---------|
| cheep | cheaper | cheapest | hie  | hiër <sup>1</sup> | hiëst   |
| larj  | larjer  | larjest  | sily | silver            | silyest |
| hot   | hoter   | hotest   | free | freer             | frost   |
| faer  | faerer  | faerest  | loe  | loer              | loëst   |
| truu  | truër   | truëst   | gae  | gaër              | gaëst   |
| fue   | fuer    | fueëst   | koi  | koir              | koiest  |

(d) *Formation of Adverbs—*

to the adjective add *-ly*, e.g. *bad*, *badly*; *vaen*, *vaenly*; but if it ends in *l* add *-y*, e.g. *final*, *finaly*; *teribl*, *teribly*. The adverbs *hoelly* (= wholly), *soelly* (= solely) have *ll*.

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<sup>1</sup>Or *hier*, without diæresis, in accordance with the pronunciation of those who sound the word like *hire*.

(e) *Verb: form in -ing*—  
No rules required.

Examples: *sel, seling; tuch, tuching; see, seing; flie, fliing; plae, plaing; go, going*.<sup>1</sup>

(f) *Verb: formation of past tense and past participle of weak verbs*—

Rules—

When the stem ends in  
a vowel. add *d*. (If the  
verb ends in *y*, change  
to *i*.)

*Examples*

plaed  
freed  
valued  
emptid

When the stem ends in *t* or  
*d*: add *ed*

fited  
sueted  
aded  
gided

When the stem ends in a  
voiceless consonant other  
than *t* (viz. *p, k, f, s, sh, ch,*  
*th*) - add *t*

hoept    rusht  
sockt    wocht  
laaft    burtht  
mist

When the stem ends in a  
voiced consonant other  
than *d* (viz. *b, g, v, z, zh,*  
*j, dh, l, r, m, n, ng*): add *d*

ebd    fild  
begd    urd  
luvd    feerd  
raezd    hamerd  
ruuzhd    skimd  
jujd    diend  
bangd    suudhd

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<sup>1</sup> The diæresis may be omitted in *going* since the diphthong *oi* never occurs before *ng*.

## Special cases-

(i) With *e* in past—

|              |             |              |            |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| breed: bred  | keep: kept  | kreep: krept | deel: delt |
| dreem: dremt | feed: fed   | feel: felt   | flee: fled |
| leed: led ,  | leen: lent  | leep: lept   | leev: left |
| meen: ment   | meet: met   | neel: nelt   | reed: red  |
| sleep: slept | speed: sped | sweep: swept | weep: wept |

*Note.*— It is instructive to compare the simplicity of these forms with the confusing variety which they show in the present spelling.

*Note:* sac: sed.

(ii) with *au* in past—

|                 |              |              |            |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| bie: baut       | bring: braut | kach: kaut   | seek: saut |
| beseech. besaut | teech. taut  | think: thaut |            |

(iii) *luuz*: lost *shuu*: shod.

*Note:* hav: had.

(g) *Verb: formation of past tense and past participle of strong verbs.* (The present spelling of the infinitive is given in brackets.)

|          |         |                  |           |
|----------|---------|------------------|-----------|
| (abide)  | abied   | aboed            | aboed     |
| (awake)  | awaack  | awoek            | awoek     |
| (bear)   | baer    | bor <sup>1</sup> | born      |
| (behold) | behoeld | beheld           | beheld    |
| (bid)    | bid     | bad (baed)       | biden     |
|          |         | bid              | bid       |
| (bind)   | biend   | bound            | bound     |
| (blow)   | bloe    | bluu             | bloen     |
| (chide)  | chid    | chid             | chiden    |
| (choose) | chuuz   | chooz            | choezen   |
| (cleave) | kleev   | klaev            | kloev(en) |
| (crow)   | kroe    | kruu             | [kroed]   |
| (come)   | kum     | kaem             | kum       |
| (dig)    | dig     | dug              | dug       |
| (draw)   | drau    | druu             | draun     |
| (drive)  | driev   | droev            | driven    |

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<sup>1</sup> Or *boer*, see p. 56, and Appendix VII.

*Verb.*

|           |         |                   |                    |
|-----------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| (drink)   | drink   | drank             | drunk              |
| (eat)     | eet     | et (aet)          | eeten              |
| (fly)     | flie    | fluu              | floen              |
| (fling)   | fling   | flung             | flung              |
| (forget)  | forget  | forgot            | forgoten           |
| (forsake) | forsaek | forsook           | forsaeken          |
| (get)     | get     | got               | got                |
| (give)    | giv     | gaev              | given              |
| (grow)    | groe    | gruu              | groen              |
| (hang)    | hang    | hung              | hung               |
| (hew)     | hue     | [hued]            | huen               |
| (lade)    | laed    |                   | laeden             |
| (lie)     | lie     | lae               | laen               |
| (mow)     | moe     | [moed]            | moen               |
| (rive)    | riev    |                   | riven              |
| (ring)    | ring    | rang              | rung               |
| (wring)   | ring    | rung              | rung               |
| (see)     | see     | sau               | seen               |
| (sow)     | soe     | [soed]            | soen               |
| (shake)   | shaek   | shook             | shaeken            |
| (shear)   | sheer   | [sheerd]          | shorn              |
| (shine)   | shien   | shon              | shon               |
| (show)    | shoe    | [shoed]           | shoen              |
| (shrink)  | shrink  | shrank            | shrunk             |
| (sing)    | sing    | sang              | sung               |
| (sink)    | sink    | sank              | sunk               |
| (sit)     | sit     | sat               | sat                |
| (slay)    | slae    | sluu              | slaen              |
| (slink)   | slink   | slunk             | slunk              |
| (smite)   | smiet   | smoet             | smiten             |
| (spin)    | spin    | spun              | spun               |
| (stand)   | stand   | stood             | stood              |
| (steal)   | steel   | stoel             | stoelen            |
| (stride)  | stried  | stroed            | striden            |
| (strive)  | striev  | stroev            | striven            |
| (swear)   | swaer   | swor <sup>1</sup> | sworn <sup>1</sup> |
| (swell)   | swel    | [sweld]           | swoelen            |
| (tear)    | taer    | tor <sup>1</sup>  | torn <sup>1</sup>  |

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<sup>1</sup>Or with *oe*, see p. 56.

*Verb:*

|          |        |                  |                   |
|----------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| (thrive) | thriev | throev           | thriven           |
| (throw)  | throe  | thruu            | throen            |
| (wake)   | waek   | woek             | woek(en)          |
| (wear)   | waer   | wor <sup>1</sup> | worn <sup>1</sup> |
| (weave)  | weev   | woev             | woeven            |
| (win)    | win    | wun              | wun               |

## Note—

|      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|
| (be) | be  | woz  | been |
| (go) | goe | went | gon  |

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<sup>1</sup>Or with *oe*, see p. 56, and Appendix VII.

**CHAPTER V**  
**WORDS NOW DIFFERING IN SPELLING TO**  
**WHICH THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD**  
**GIVE THE SAME FORM**

It is sometimes urged against attempts to simplify the spelling that a number of words now spelt differently would, in a simplified spelling, become identical in form. This is, of course, true; but there is not much force in the argument, since in nearly every case the context makes it clear which meaning is intended, just as, despite the present spelling, the difference between the bark of a dog and the bark of a tree is nevertheless apprehended without difficulty.

(a) The following are examples of words which would become homonyms in New Spelling—

| <i>Present<br/>Spelling</i> | <i>New<br/>Spelling</i> | <i>Present<br/>Spelling</i> | <i>New<br/>Spelling</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| aloud, allowed              | aloud                   | die, dye                    | die                     |
| aught, ought                | aut                     | draft, draught              | draaft                  |
| bare, bear                  | baer                    | fair, fare                  | faer                    |
| bean, been                  | been                    | four, fore, for             | for <sup>2</sup>        |
| below, bellow               | beloc                   | freeze, frieze              | freeze                  |
| birth, berth                | burth                   | grate, great                | graet                   |
| bogic, bogy                 | boegy                   | hart, heart                 | hart                    |
| born, borne                 | born <sup>1</sup>       | heard, herd                 | hurd                    |
| canvas, canvass             | kanvas                  | hour, our                   | our                     |
| coarse, course              | kors <sup>1</sup>       | knave, nave                 | naev                    |
| cockscumb, coxcomb          | kokscoem                | knead, need                 | need                    |
| committee, comity           | komity                  | knew, new                   | nue                     |
| dew, due                    | due                     | knight, night               | niet                    |

<sup>1</sup> *Borne, coarse* and *course* have alternative spellings, *boern, koers*, in N.S.

<sup>2</sup> *Four* and *fore* would have an alternative spelling, *foer*, in N.S.

| <i>Present Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i> | <i>Present Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| knot, not               | not                 | rote, wrote             | roet                |
| know, no                | noe                 | rung, wrung             | rung                |
| knows, nose             | noez                | rye, wry                | rie                 |
| meat, meet              | meet                | scent, sent             | sent                |
| mist, missed            | mist                | sight, site             | siet                |
| pause, paws             | pauz                | son, sun                | sun                 |
| peace, piece            | pees                | stake, steak            | staek               |
| picket, piquet          | piket               | steal, steel            | steel               |
| practice, practise      | praktis             | taught, taut            | taut                |
| praise, prays, preys    | praez               | weak, week              | week                |
| reck, wreck             | rek                 | wood, would             | wood                |
| right, rite, write      | riet                |                         |                     |

Note.— The only case in which ambiguity would arise at all frequently (at least in Southern English) appears to be that of *oral* and *aural*, and this difficulty is naturally felt in the spoken language. If both words are retained (and it seems very desirable to adopt a substitute for the latter), we recommend that they be written in their present forms. See p. 56.

(*b*) Less numerous, without doubt, are the cases in which the current spelling represents in the same way words which differ in pronunciation. Here New Spelling naturally reveals the distinction clearly. Some examples are contained in the following list—

| <i>Present Spelling</i> | <i>New Spelling</i>   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| abuse (noun, verb)      | abues, abuez          |
| bow (noun, verb)        | boe, bou              |
| deliberate (adj., verb) | deliberet, deliberaet |
| estimate (noun, verb)   | estimet, estimaet     |
| ferment (noun, verb)    | furment, ferment      |
| house (noun, verb)      | hous, houz            |
| lead (verb, noun)       | leed, led             |
| live (adj., verb)       | liev, liv             |
| lower (adj., verb)      | loer, lour            |
| minute (noun, adj.)     | minit, mienuet        |
| mouth (noun, verb)      | mouth, moudh          |
| permit (noun, verb)     | purmit, permit        |
| premise (noun, verb)    | premis, premiez       |

| <i>Present spelling</i>    | <i>New Spelling</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| protest (noun, verb)       | proetest, protest   |
| read (present, preterite)  | reed, red           |
| row (of houses; uproar)    | roe, rou            |
| slough (swamp; cast skin)  | slou, sluf          |
| sow (verb, noun)           | soe, sou            |
| wind (air in motion; coil) | wind, wiend         |
| wound (injury; coiled)     | wuund, wound        |

(c) It is possible to draw up a third and very considerable list of words which according to the current spelling have the same form and are pronounced alike. (About 750 such pairs are given in *Skeat's Etymological Dictionary*, Appendix.) A few examples are—

|   |   |
|---|---|
| art (thou art; the art)                           | found (to found; past of <i>to find</i> ) |
| bear (to bear; a bear)                            | hop (jump; plant)                         |
| bound (to bound; past of<br><i>to bind</i> )      | lie (to lie down; to tell a lie)          |
| box (case; tree; fight with fists)                | might (past of <i>may</i> ; power)        |
| down (opp. of <i>up</i> ; hill; soft<br>feathers) | page (of book; attendant)                 |
| fell (past of <i>to fall</i> ; adj.)              | rank (grade; coarse)                      |
| felt (past of <i>to feel</i> , noun)              | spoke (he spoke; a spoke)                 |
|   | stole (he stole; a stole)                 |
|   | well (a well; adv.)                       |

See page 102.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE SPELLING OF COMPOUND WORDS

The treatment of compound words in English is very inconsistent, and presents many difficulties to the learner.

The only authority is the dictionary, and even the *Oxford English Dictionary* shows many inconsistencies, a few of which are given in the list below. We doubt if any educated person would write out all these words from dictation in the form approved by the O.E.D.

As a further example of inconsistencies met with in that dictionary may be mentioned the treatment of words compounded with *co-*; thus we find: *coarticulate*, *coefficient*, *coeternal* without hyphens, *co-education*, *co-operate*, *co-ordinate* with hyphens.

*Examples of the spelling of compound words in the Oxford English Dictionary—*

| <i>Hyphen</i>              | <i>One Word</i> | <i>Two Words</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| heather-bell               |                 | blue bell        |
| book-keeping               | bookbinding     |                  |
| ice-cream                  | buttermilk      |                  |
| by-lane, -road,<br>-street | bypath          |                  |
| cat's-cradle               | cockscorb       | cat's paw        |
| lamb's-wool                |                 | lamb's fry       |
| coal-field                 | cornfield       |                  |
| counter-claim              | counterbalance  |                  |
| grand-niece                | granddaughter   |                  |
| half-crown                 | halfpenny       |                  |
| honey-bee                  | honeycomb       |                  |
| horse-tail                 | horsehair       |                  |
| home-brewed                | homespun        |                  |
| house-agent                | householder     |                  |

| <i>Hyphen</i> | <i>One Word</i> | <i>Two Words</i> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| hare-lip      | humpback        |                  |
| horse-radish  |                 | kidney bean      |
| farm-house    | lighthouse      |                  |
| knick-knack   | gewgaw          |                  |
|               | highway         | high road        |
| horse-fly     | foxhound        |                  |
| lock-out      |                 | look out         |
| long-hand     | shorthand       |                  |

It is evident that, where so much diversity of practice prevails in authoritative places, it is not possible to make recommendations at this stage. Users of New Spelling cannot do better than follow the recommendations of the *Authors' and Printers' Dictionary* in all ordinary cases.

There is one particular problem, however, which requires immediate attention, as well as a definite decision. It concerns certain compounds containing sequences of two consonants which at first sight may appear ambiguous because they are liable to be identified with one or other of the accepted digraphs. These digraphs are: *th, dh, sh, zh, ng, nk* (as in respectively *tuuthaek, iedher, fashon, vizhon, singer, lanky*). The same pairs of consonant letters would also normally occur in the simplified forms of *shorthand, adhere, dishearten, mishap, clothes-horse, green-gage, corncrake*. Hence it becomes necessary, in order to avoid the possibility of misinterpretation, to interpose a hyphen, thus *short-hand, ad-heer, dis-harten, mis-hap, kloe(dh)z-hors, green-gaej, korn-kraek*. Accordingly we recommend that whenever two words are compounded to form a third, thus bringing into juxtaposition two consonants that are capable of being mistaken for one of the regular digraphs, these consonants should be separated by a hyphen. Similar considerations sometimes apply to words formed with a prefix; see Appendix on *ng*) p. 99.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE SPELLING OF PROPER NAMES

The question arises how proper names (English and foreign) should be spelt. Some spelling reformers have maintained that strict consistency should be observed, and that all English names (both personal and geographical) and the foreign names which have definite anglicized forms should have their spelling reformed in the same way as other words. Others have expressed the opinion that no attempt should be made to change the spelling of personal names, but that place-names should be simplified. Others again hold the view that all proper names should remain in their present form.

We think that the question of personal names should be left to the taste of the persons bearing the names. Thus we do not consider it essential that persons named *Jones* should change the spelling to *Joenz*; on the other hand we should not seek to dissuade anyone of this name from making this simplification if he felt so disposed.

There would, however, be no objection to reforming the spelling of the names of historical or mythological personages which have recognized English forms. Such are *Juulyus Seezar*, *Vurjil*, *Hoemer*, *Ueklid*, *Miedas*, *Konfueshyus*.

The question of geographical names is rendered difficult by the fact that many of them have given rise to formations (nouns, adjectives and verbs) which presumably should be written in the new way. Most of the adjectives and the nouns denoting inhabitants are at present written with capital letters (*French*, *German*, *Spaniard*, etc.), while verbs and other nouns are, as a rule,

written with small initial letters (*americanism, romanize, frenchify*, etc.). Some have a capital or small letter according to the meaning (e.g. *roman, arabic, pacific, arabesque*). Sometimes too the name of a place is adopted to denote an article, and is in that case written with a small initial letter (e.g. *china, cashmere*).

It has been suggested that all the words, original or derived, which are at present written with a capital letter should remain in their existing forms. This, however, would lead to many anomalies, such as *.American: amerikaniez, Roman history: roeman, tiep, Pacific Oeshan: pasifik meenz, China: chiena*.

A further difficulty arises when ordinary words are taken for naming streets, etc. For instance the word regent appears in new spelling as *reejent*. Should we then revert to *Regent* in *Regent Street*?

In view of the above considerations we feel disposed to recommend that English place-names and anglicized foreign place-names be written in New Spelling, e.g. *Ingland* (or *Inggländ*), *Fraans* (or *Frans*), *Jurmany*, *Lundon*, *Liverpuul*, *Burmiigam*, *Uerop*, *Iesha*, *Roem*, *Moskoe*, *Marsaelz*. We recognize, however, that legal and other difficulties may arise, and we therefore propose to leave this question to be decided later in the light of further experience.

Some place-names have variant pronunciations. The re-spelling of these would involve rulings as to the most suitable forms by appropriate authorities. There would appear to be no insuperable difficulty in securing these. Such a ruling has already been given by the B.B.C. in the case of *Daventry*; the old local pronunciation *Daentry* has been rejected in favour of *Daventry*. A similar procedure might well be followed in the case of *Cirencester* (pronounced *Sierensester, Sisister* and *Siziter*),

*Uttoxeter* (pronounced *Uetokseter*, *Utokseter* and *Ukseter*),  
*Gloucester* (pronounced *Gloster* and *Glauster*),  
*Marylebone* (pronounced *Marrileboen*, *Marribon*,  
*Marlibon*) and other place-names with variable  
pronunciation.

A list of important place-names which would be  
affected by the adoption of New Spelling for them is given  
in Appendix VIII.

## CHAPTER VIII

### FOREIGN WORDS

We use in English a certain number of foreign words and phrases, e.g. *qui vive*, *entente*, *sine qua non*, *ad infinitum*, *prima facie*, *bona fide*, *vice versa*, *zeitgeist*, *zollverein*, *ayah*. These will naturally remain unchanged. On the other hand words that have been fully incorporated in our language will be spelt in the new way, as for instance *ajenda* (agenda), *aelyas* (alias), *alibie* (alibi), *apleekae* (appliqué), *balae* (ballet), *broonet* (brunette), *buurzhwaa* (bourgeois), *cheloe* (‘cello), *daeta*, *kafae* (café), *fuerore* (furore), *hiaetus* (hiatus), *ioeta* (iota), *nueklyus* (nucleus), *nueklyie* (nuclei), *turminus* (terminus), *turminie* (termini). The case of *coupon*, *restaurant*, *debutante* is more complicated. Many pronounce these words with a nasal vowel in the last syllable, as in French, which cannot be represented in the New Spelling. Others give these words an English pronunciation which can be spelt *kuupon*, *restorant*, *daebuetaant*, and it seems likely that this will prevail.

It is often difficult to decide whether a word of foreign origin is still to be treated as “foreign” or whether it can be regarded as fully incorporated into English. Users of New Spelling must use their discretion in the application of the new system to such words.

## CHAPTER IX

### A SPECIMEN OF NEW SPELLING

Objekshonz to a Chaenj in dhe prezent Speling

We instinktivly shrink from eny chaenj in whot iz familyar; and whot kan be mor familyar dhan dhe form ov wurdz dhat we hav seen and riten mor tiemz dhan we kan posibly estimaet? We taek up a book printed in Amerika, and *honor* and *center* jar upon us every tiem we kum akros dhem; nae, eeven to see *forever* in plaes *ov for ever* atrakts our atenshon in an unplezant wae. But dheez ar iesolaeted kaesez; think ov dhe meny wurdz dhat wood hav to be chaenj d if eny real impruuvment wer to rezult. At dhe furst glaans a pasej ijti eny reformd speling looks “kweer” or “ugly”. Dhis objekshon iz aulwaez dhe furst to be maedg it iz purfektly natueral; it iz dhe hardest to remuuv. Indeed, its efekt iz not weekend until dhe nue speling iz noe longger nue, until it haz been seen ofen enuf to be familyar.

Dhe sekond objekshon ofen urjd iz, dhat wurdz which sound aliek, but hav at prezent a diferent speling, wood noe longger be distinggwishabl, and konfuezhon wood ariez. *Night* and *knight*, *right*, *write* and *rite*, for instans, wood hav to be spelt in dhe saem wae. But whot ov dhat? Aafter aul, whot iz riten shood baer reeding aloud. Ar we unsurten in dhe spoeken langgwej whedher *night* or *knight* iz ment in eny partikuelar kontekst? Kood U maek up sentencez in which dhaer wood be ambigueity, in which, for instans, *right*, *write*, and *rite* wood eech giv sens? Eeven in dhe langgwej az it iz nou spelt egzaamplz ov wurdz iedentikal in form but diferent in meening ar not raer; *art* mae be a noun or a vurb (*thou art*), *bound* mae be an infinitiv or a paast tens, *bear* mae be a noun or a vurb.

Furdher, dhaer ar kaesez in which dhe prezent speling haz iedentity ov form, auldhoe dhaer iz a diferens ov pronun-syaeshon (which in a konsistent speling wood nesesityaet diferens ov form); e.g., *lead* (vurb) and *lead* (noun), *row* (ov houzez) and *row* (*upror*), *read* (prezent) and *read* (paast).

Dhe aanser, dhen, to dhis objekshon iz dhat whot givz noe trubl in dhe spoeken langgwej iz not liekly to giv trubl in its riten form; and dhat if in wun or tuu kaesez tribi aroez, it wood be kounterbalanst bie dhe avoidans ov ambiguity in udher kaesez.

Dhe objekshon to which moest waet iz jeneraly atacht iz dhe “etimolojikal”: a chaenj ov speling wood, it iz sed, obskuer dhe derivaeshon. It miet sufies to point to dhe fakt dhat Profesor Skeat, huuz authorritativ pozishon among English skolarz iz uenivursaly rekogniezd, woz for meny yeez a champion ov speling reform; to meny dhis wil seem a sufisient aanser. But dhaer iz soe much misaprehenshon on dhis point, and such straenj staetments ar maed, dhat it bekumz nesesityaet to deel widh dhis objekshon in sum deetael.

We rekwier dhe langgwej az an instrooment; we mae aulsoe study its history. Dhe prezens ov unpronounst leterz, three or for diferent waez ov representing dhe saem sound, three or for uesez ov dhe saem leter: aul dhis detrakts from dhe value ov a langgwej az an instrooment. When we plaes dhis instrooment in dhe hand ov dhe chield, we duu not at dhe saem tiem teeche it historrikal gramar.

Agaen, let us not forget huu form dhe graet majorrity ov dhoez dhat lurn to reed and riet. Dhae ar dhe children dhat atend priemary skuulz; dhaer tiem iz limited. We

hav noe riet to impoez on dhem a kaotik speling for dhe saek ov posibly teeching dhem a litl historrikal gramar.

But it mae be sed dhat it iz misleading to speek in dhis konekshon ov historrikal gramar; dhat it iz dhe derivaeshon dhat iz obskuerd, and dhat dhis iz a real los. Whot iz ment iz, dhat it wil bekum les eezy to konekt dhe Inglish wurdz widh French or Latin wurdz and widh Tuetonik wurdz.

It must be born in miend dhat dhe mas ov dhe naeshon lurnz noe forren langgwejez, and dhe oportuenitiz for komparrison ar wonting. But let us konsider dhe kwiet apreeshyabl number ov dhoez huu noe wun or several forren langgwejez; wil dhae not luuz sumthing if dhe konekshon between Inglish and forren wurdz iz obskuerd?

Our vokabuelary haz meny elements; but in dhe maen it konsists ov wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin and wurdz which goe bak, direktly or indirekty, to Latin. A larj number ov dhe derivativz from Latin (probably dhe graet majorriity) prezent litl difikulty; dhae hav undergon komparrativly litl sound-chaenj sins dhae enterd dhe langgwejez. A reezonabl simplified speling wood leev dhem very much az dhae ar nou. (Dhus, selecting wurdz from dhis parragraaf, dhaer iz seen to be litl or noe chaenj in *element*, *konsist*, *derivative*, *probably*, *majorriity*—noe chaenj kalkuelaeted to obskuer dhe derivaeshon.)

Dhe wurdz dhat giv trubl ar dhe wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin. Dheez (speeking kwiet jeneraly) wood rekwier much mor ekstensiv chaenjez in eny skeem ov simplified speling. Dhe *k* of *knave* wood disapeer, and dhe konekshon widh dhe Jurman *Knabe* wood bekum les obvyus; dhe oemishon ov *gh* from *night* maeks dhe wurd les liek *Nacht*. Undoutedly dhaer iz a faer number ov wurdz dhat belong to dhis kategory.

Asueming dhat dhe obskuering ov derivaeshonz went much fardher dhan it iz liekly to duu in eny akseptabl skeem ov simplified speling, wood dhaer be eny real los?

Befor repliing, it mae be wel to konsider anudher objekshon which iz ofen urjd: dhe introdukshon ov anudher speling wood maek aul dhe egzisting books uesles. I am not kwiet klee whie dhis objekshon shood be soe redily urjd; for shuurly it iz kwiet unreezonabl. Dhe introdukshon ov a nue speling iz not dhe wurk ov daez or weeks; it wood be imposibl (eeven if it wer dezierabl) at wuns to suplie in dhe nue speling aul dhe books dhat ar wonted, and to remuuv aul dhe oeld books in dhe oeld speling. Evribody wood be aebl to reed dhe oeld speling widhout difikulty; dhoez braut up on dhe nue speling wood be familiar widh dhe oeld, dhoe dhae wood hardly look upon it widh admiraeshon.

To dhe lurner interested in dhe history ov dhe langgwej dhe oeld speling wood be eezily aksesibl; far mor eezily dhan dhe speling ov Chauser or eeven Shaekspeer. He wood be aebl to traes derivaeshonz kwiet az eezily az nou; and he wood enjoi dhis graet advaantej, dhat he kood not eskaep dhe soundz and deel widh leterz oenly—which iz at present soe seeryus a daenjer in dhe paath ov dhe yung stuedent ov langgwej. He wood aask himself agaen and agaen whie dhe oeld speling (unliek dhe nue) deevyaeted soe freekwently from dhe pronunnyaeshon. Whot he nou aksepts widhout thinking he wood analiez and egzamin. Dhe study ov filology iz bound to gaen graet advaantej when dhe speling ov a langgwej iz a faer reprezentaeshon ov dhe soundz.

I hav not yet direkted atenshon to dhe fakt dhat dhe present speling iz not aulwaez a saef gied in materz ov derivaeshon. Dhoez huu think dhat dhe speling shood not oenly represent dhe soundz, but aulsoe sujest dhe orrijin

ov dhe wurd, shood surtenly not kontinue to riet widh dhe prezent misleeding speling *scent*, *sovereign*, and meny udher wurdz; and if a sielent *b* iz kept in *debt* “to shoe dhe derivaeshon,” whie not insurt a sielent *c* in *lettuce* (from *lactuca*)? And if *ph* iz kept in *philosophy* to shoe dhat dhe wurd kumz from dhe Greek, whie not be konsistent and riet *phancy*? A simplified speling wood giv us *sent*, not *scent*, and wood dhus prezent a form etimolojikaly, az wel az fonetikaly, mor korekt; it wood giv us *det*, not *debt*, which agaen wood be mor korekt, for dhe wurd iz, derievd direktly from French *dette*, and oenly indirektly from Latin *debita*; and az for dhe *ph*, wil it be maentaend dhat dhe Italyan huu riets *filosofia* iz on dhat akount les liekly dhan we ar to noe dhat dhe wurd iz derievd from dhe Greek?

To sum up dhe aanser to dhe “etirnolojikal” objekshon. Dhe langgwey az an instrooment wood be impruuvd bie dhe adopshon ov a simplified speling; for purposez, ov study dhe prezent speling wood stil be abundantly avaelabl. Dhe konekshon ov form between English and French or Latin wurdz wood be very litl obskuerd in dhe nue speling; wurdz ov Tuetonik orrijin wood hav to be chaenjd mor, but dhe stuedent kompaering, let us sae, English and Jurman wood be in noe wae inkonveenyenst.

Dhe laast objekshon dhat I hav hurd—and to mie miend it hardly dezurvz menshon—iz dhat it iz good disiplin to maek children lurn such a speling az ourz. I shood be dhe laast to dezier dhe weakening ov wil or dhe relaksing ov efort in our skuulz; but I hav noe simpathy widh dhe iedea dhat difikultiz hav an intrinsik value. We duu not teech children to riet widh dhaer feet, bekauz ov dhe moral and intelektueal advaantejez to be gaend from oeverkuming difikultiz. We teech dhem to grapl widh difikultiz bekauz in dhe proeses surten valueabl pourz ar being eksersiezd—bekauz dhaer iz sum definit end to be

ataend when dhe difikultiz ar oeverkum. We giv dhem praktis in drauing dedukshonz, in formuclaeting ruulz, in apliing dhem. Whot ov aul dhis iz dhaer in dhe teeching ov dhe kurrent speling? We hav to sae: *b e d* spelz *bed*, and *h e a d* spelz *head*. If dhe chield asks: whie not *h e d*?, we kan giv noe reezon. Dhaer iz noe satisfactory ruul to gied dhe chield. Dhe soundz duu not help. Dhis iz a difikulty for dhe chield and remaenz a difikulty until repetishon haz maed dhe unreezonabl speling *head* familyar. Whot haz been dhe gaen? It wood be hard to sae; but dhe los iz obvyus; tiem and efort hav been spent which miet hav been beter emploid udherwiez.