# **Spelling Progress Bulletin Spring 1971**

Dedicated to finding the causes of difficulties in learning reading and spelling.

"A closed mind gathers no knowledge; an open mind is the key to progress."

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#### 1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

We think many of our readers should be interested in one particular course in the Summer Workshop of Temple Buell College, Denver, Colo. The complete announcement and list of courses is on page 18. Course Ed. 350-S is intended principly for those primary grade and remedial reading teachers who recognize that part of the difficulty they have in teaching arises from the inconsistencies of English spelling.

This course will explore the various means of circumventing the anomalies of English spelling. A detour is often quicker than trying to wend one's way thru a boulder strewn road. This course will assist in determining the advantages of a regular reformed spelling, the requirements of such a system, the means for introducing and utilizing it.

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The International Society of Phonetic Sciences (div. of UNESCO-NGO, category C) will hold the 7th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences at Montreal, Canada, via the Linguistics Dept of Gill Univ. The address of the organizing committee is Montreal, PQ, Canada. It costs only \$2.00 to join the Society. Write to the Secretary, NJ. Kloster Jensen, Univ. of Bergen, Norway.

The categories for discussion will include: Linguistics Phonetics, Phonology, Perception of Speech Acoustics, Physiology and Pathology of Speech, Phonetics in Language Teaching, Voice Training, Ortheopy.

Other meetings will be held in Hungary, Belgium and Czechoslovakia.

# 2. Obsolete Words – do They Indicate a Trend? by Newell W. Tune

Obsolete words are occasionally found in the writings of oldsters who cling to the old far beyond the time of their general use. But seldom does one run across a story that appears to have been deliberately written to give it a certain flavor as if it were written several centuries before our time.

Our attention was called to a science-fiction story in *Beyond Fantasy Fiction*, vol. 1, No. 4, for Jan, 1954, edited by H. L. Gold (a Galaxy Publication, N.Y.), a novella by Evelyn E. Smith called, "Call Me Wizard," which runs to 90 pages. It was explored to list all obsolete words and ordinary words with obsolete meanings, or used in an obsolete manner. It is quite surprising how many such words can be packed together in the first half (45 pages) of this novella. It is also enlightening to us "word merchants" how many such obsolete words are available – with so many different meanings from what we are accustomed to give to words. The first half of this novella contained by count over 200 obsolete words and meanings. It was almost like reading a story written after Chaucer but before Shakespeare. A sample page will show more than any verbose description we can give. This shows the authors style and his well calculated use of obsolete words:

"Giglet!" Dorothea spat, "Can y'not clap eyes upon a fair man – or for that matter a foul one, for you're marvelous indiscriminate – without trying your liberal arts upon him? Well, 'twas y'could not pass th'entrance examinations to the School of Sorcery. Had you sufficient skill to brew your own potions, by my troth, there's not a man in America but who'd have been in your chambers by now!"

"Dolly!" Philip protested. "You shouldn't talk like that! To a customer especially!"

Dorothea gave vent to derisive laughter. "Customer, aye, you have the right word for her, sweet *knave*. A customer she is indeed! Come *lip me* for that, *peat!*"

She kissed him soundly. "Let us within the house – its mortal cold out here."

And they were back in the warm, relaxing firelight. Perkin pattered forth to greet them with a miau of relief.

"He did his best, Dolly," Philip said as the sorceress was about to reproach the cat. "He really did."

Perkin rubbed his velvety head against Philip's hand.

"Aye, he did his best, Dolly, Alison sneered. "But a cat, after all, though he be no worse than a man, is no better either."

"What!" Dorothea cried. "You dare to follow me back into the house, *strumpet*, after your shameless behavior?"

Alison shrugged. "I need no defense, sorceress, for well you know that I'm a dame of strong affections. Y'should have come *festinately* with the potion. And you should not have let so *lovesome* 

a fellow out of your sight – he's so natural, I wonder that half the female *livers* in town have not been set afire by his modest *habit*. Or have y' kept him mewed up like a sheep?" She gave a metallic laugh. "Aye, I can see by your face that y'have. Doll, you lack proper assurance to be *possess't* of such a man."

So Dorothea had not kept him locked up to keep him from getting out, but to keep other women from getting in. Or, rather, from discovering that she had such a prize as he – for there was no keeping anyone out of his universe. Dear little woman – he hiccuped again – she thought only of his welfare. Not like Dora, who cared only for herself.

Alison continued airily: "Sith I observe I shall get nowhere with your spouse – although, had you not arrived so *incontinently*, there might have been another tale to tell – will y'not concoct me a mess of th'amorous drug, sweet charmer, so that I may fascinate another?"

Dorothea snorted. How d'ye ken, I'll not put hebenon in it?

"Because the whole world knows I purchase my charms from you," Alison yawned. "Did they think you to have slain me *a-purpose*, 'twould be *immoment*, but they'd be certain sure you'd put the poison in by *misprison*. Would y'wish to be known as a *sluobbery* sorceress?"

## Dorothea grunted.

"I'm your best client, Doll," Alison went on. "Don't forget, such conquests as I have effected without the aid of magical arts – and they have been notable ones, perdy! – ha' been *ascribed* to your mysteries. If y'poison me, you poison your own best advertisement. And all for the sake of such a trumpery thing as a man. Fie, Doll, your too *tricksy* a dame to do a *fond* thing like that "

"Y'have the right on't," Dorothea agreed, moodily opening various cupboard doors and flinging ingredients into the pot. "However, henceforth do not call upon me here in my abode. If y'have need of me, send for me. I'll not have my husband *jaded* by your *irregulous* suggestions."

A list of the strange (to most of us) words found in the first half of the story follows: (figure after indicates number of times the word occured).

- A. abet, addled 2, afeared, affront 2, -ing, alder, alife, antick 2, aroint, arras, artifice, ascribed, asperse, awry.
- B. baleful, barnacles, bent, belike2, benighted, bescaught 2, bethought, bison rheum, blear, bodge, buss, bussed.
- C. certes 4, chaudron, chewet, chuck (n), churlish, coistre1, colt (v), consolate, corky, cozening, cullion.
- D. desparate, divers, dribbling, drumbler, dulcet.
- E: 'e, electuary, espied, espouse, -ed, essay, estridge.
- F. fategate, fere, festinately 2, filch, foison 2, fond, fordo, forked, forspent, frampold, front, fubsy 2, fustian.
- G. gallimaufry, gamesome, garboil, geek, giglet 2, gimmer 2, goodden, gremoire, gull (v), gulled 2.
- H. habit, haply, hebenon, hurley.
- I. illume, immoment, inclipped, incontinently, irregulous.
- J. jade (n), -ed, jape.

- K. ken 3, knave, kobold.
- L. lave, laving, liefest, lip me, list (command), livers (n), lovesome 2, losel, lunes 2.
- M. mage 2, mammocked, marry 3 (interject.), maugre, mazard, meacock, meeseems, megrims, mewed up, minikin, misprison, moldwarp, momes, mortal cold, mummy.
- N. nathless 2, ne'er, nitid, nonce 2.
- O. ods pittikins, on't, operant, orgulous 2, overmuch.
- P. palliament, paring, parlance, parlous, parochial, patch (n), peat (n) 2, pedant, peduncle, pedurably, perdy 2, phylacktery 2, pipkin, plausive, possess't, pother 3, potion, pouncet, princox, -es, prithee.
- R. ricked, rudishy 2, rubious.
- S. saruk, scrippage, scroyle, scurvily, shelly, sirrah 2, sith 6, slubber, -ly, stilt, strumpet, surcoat.
- T. tome, thaumaturge 2, tricksy 2, troth 2, trumpery.
- V. valance, varlet 2, velvures, virtuous air.
- W. whelked, whoobub, wight, withal, within(v), wot, wroth, wrathful.
- Y. yarly, yester'een.

total-218 words.

Just why was this story apparently written with so many obsolete words? An attempt by this writer to get in touch with the author, Evelyn E. Smith, came to naught since in the intervening 15 years the magazine is no longer publisht. No doubt the author was a man (in England men are sometimes given such names as: (Frances, Shirley, Evelyn) as women seldom cling to the past with such tenacity – nor do they deliberately seek to impress others with their extreme age and the fact that they live in the past – especially when the past being indicated is several centuries beyond our life span (and our grandfathers also).

It appears to us that this author used these obsolete words deliberately to create an impression – an impression of being a wizard who had lived for centuries – and naturally used the words commonly in use at his time. Albeit so, he indeed lived long before Shakespeare, for the immortal bard in his wildest writings never spouted forth with such oddzounds.

In looking over these obsolete words, we cannot but wonder if in the not too distant future some more English will become obsolete. For example: *son*, which is sometimes confused phonetically with *sun*, may be avoided in use for this reason. I know I do, and say "my boy" instead. Some of the meanings of "bay" are seldom used for reasons of possible confusion – or lack of clarity. A bay horse is seldom called merely "a bay," nor a bay window mentioned without using both words.

There are other reasons why words fall into disrepute and being seldom used, are classed as obsolete. Certain words were only found in the written vocabulary of very profound, highly technical or scholarly writers. In time they took on the commoners' appelation of "high falutin" or "high brow" words. Since the majority of the public did not understand them, they became used less and less till they came under question of being present day words. Thus is the process of becoming obsolete.

# 3. A Guide for Spelling Reformers, by Newell W. Tune

Spelling reformers are sometimes made when a concerned public-spirited citizen finds he has to teach the illogical, confusable anomalies of our English spelling to pupils who question the sanity of such a so-called system. So, with plenty of self-confidence, he sits down and soon has devised a regular spelling system that he feels is undoubtedly an improvement over our regular spelling. Perhaps it is, but this spelling reformer would do well to thoroly test his proposed system before presenting it to the public and backing it whole-heartedly – or else he may be backed into a corner with an untenable system that may cause him embarassment. Some systems that have seen have lots of built-in booby-traps that the proponents have overlooked because it was not adequately tested.

The best way of testing a proposed system is to prepare a dictionary in the new spellings. But, of course, that takes a lot of work, time and money (if it is printed) and this does not appeal to the average reformer. A short-cut does exist which will show any logical minded reformer the pitfalls of his system. Just start writing words in the new spelling with the long vowel sounds, starting at the beginning of the alphabet. Transcribe into the new spelling: babe, bac(k)e, bade, bafe, bage, baje, bale, bame, bane, bape, bare, base, bate, etc. It wont be long before he will encounter some amusing spellings that will easily be confused with some T.O. spellings.

This is the first and most important principle that must be considered. It is imperative that the new spelling shall have as few (or none if possible) spellings that are the same as T.O. spellings of other sounds because confusion will result. If the spelling reformer does not conscientiously criticize his system looking at it logically with an open mind, he is often doomed to disappointment. To avoid confusion with our present T.O. spellings is an important and vitally necessary part of the planning of any new system. For example, one system I have seen uses the French vowel sounds for the letters *e* and *i*, as in *fete* and *machine*. His would change the spellings of many thousands of English words just to fit in with the dozen or so imported French words. He would spell *ee* (long *e*) with *i* in such words as: beer (bit), bead (bid), seat (sit), heed (hid), and bait (bet), date (det), late (let), mate (met), etc. Yet when this probable confusion was pointed out to him, he refused to change, saying, "Oh, well, they'll get used to it." The blindness of some reformers is exceeded only by their stubbornness.

Confusion can be caused by other means. For this reason, discarded letters, such as q, x, and c, should not be reassigned to new uses that are never found in T.O. spellings. It should be obvious (yet it seldom is) that it is difficult for an educated person, who already knows our English spellings from long establisht habits, to try to forget the conventional sound often given to a symbol and then learn to associate a new sound with it. This double-duty is an insurmountable obstacle to the learning of any new system, yet some reformers can't see it. A glance at a page from Ruby Olive Foulk's 218 page book entitled: AMXRIKCAI SPEK would soon show you that it was unreadable without lengthy study, and contains many confusable spellings. Yet she spent over \$ 5000 having the book printed without any testing whatever, when a sample page printed in it and shown to a

dozen unbiased teachers would have proved to her the impracticality of the system.

A second and probably equally important consideration is to make the new spellings easy to remember, and hence to be learned and to be caught. Since everyone will have to learn the new system, this importance cannot be stresst too highly. A regular, systematic means of indicating the long vowel sounds is needed, since the short vowel sounds, being the more frequently occurring on the printed page, need to be disturbed as little as possible. (For a complete analysis of this principle, see the SPB, vol. III, no.1, March, 1963, pages 16-24).

These two considerations are more important than another principle: the principle of least disturbance of the regular T.O. spellings (what is regular? – the most frequently occurring spellings?). An apology is probably needed for offering this principle at all yet it has some merit if all other considerations are met first. If we do adhere to this principle, we will make the new system easy to read for the oldsters who long ago learned to recognize T.O. spellings as sight words regardless of their illogical spellings. Perhaps this will placate to some extent their grudging reluctance to any change whatever. Yet this principle should not deter us from making any changes that will follow our first two principles: avoiding confusion and making it easy to learn and to teach.

Since English has only 26 symbols (actually only 23 useful symbols), the spelling reformer needs to add a dozen and a half new letters or to make some provision for representing this many more sounds than we have letters. Alfabeteers are torn between adding new letters (which are not on our typewriters) or making the existing letters do double duty, by two different means – doubling up letters to make digrafs, or by adding diacritical marks. The latter will make a less changed appearance on the printed page but at a great sacrifice in writing speed. Diacritic marks slow down the script to a point where it is almost intolerable for taking notes a dictation. Try it before fostering it on your friends or the public. A digraf can be written in much less time than a diacritic. If a diacritic is misplaced or missing, the error could create a wrong meaning or make the message not understandable.

Some have used a mixture of upper and lower case letters to achieve their reform. If the ordinary large upper case letter is used, it makes a very strange, misleading, almost ridiculous appearance to the printed page. If small upper case letters that fit in aesthetically with the regular lower case letters are used, it means that many new keys must be added to the typewriter. Any such change is a definite handicap to the adoption of such a system. The alfabeteer who has this idea should stop and consider the cost of changing, millions of typewriters, print shop fonts, teletype machines and other remote controlled word machines – for news, stock reports, telegraphs, etc.

We admit there are obstacles to spelling reform. Therefore, the idea of this message is to avoid the worst obstacles and to encourage thinking up new ideas that will have a better chance of succeeding.

# 4. More Homophones, a sequel to Homophones, Homographs, and Heterographs – the deceitful words of English, by Newell W. Tune

In 1962 when the disertation with the title, "Homophones, Homographs, & Heterographs, the Deceitful Words of English" was published by the author, it was stated that the listing of homophones was admittedly incomplete and that additions would be welcomed. Just how incomplete it was became clear during the last year when two books on the subject were found. The first of these (Anonymous), Webster's Synonyms, Antonyms and Homonyms, published by Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc. U.S.A., 192 pp, 1963, \$1.00, distributed by Crown Publishers, N.Y., and 2: Julian Franklyn, "Which Witch, being a grouping of phonetically compatible words," 218 pp, pub. 1966 by Hamish Hamilton, London, 21/-. Consequently, it was decided that the original disertation needed augmenting. This listing not only supplements but it also introduces one new class of these easily confusable words, heteronyms, q.v.

While both of these books contain many more listings than the monograph above mentioned, they must be examined with caution and suspicion. If it were only that the listings were based upon Southern British pronunciation, the added entries, which would not be homophones by American pronunciation, could be forgiven, as they appear to be accredible listings by Received Standard pronunciation. But when such words as: abba, abbé, and abbey, which our dictionaries list as all having different pronunciations, are listed as a. homonym group, one is bound to be suspicious; and when one finds 'aching' and 'akin' paired, one suspects the books of being padded. Frequently they pair words ending in the s-sound with those in the z-sound. Others we could not accept: awed, odd; anal, annal, annual, annual, annual; centaury, century, sentry; ballad, ballet, ballot; caw, cops, copse, core, corpse, corpus; carton, cartoon; can, ken, kin; abode, adobe; adapt, adept, adopt; bereave; brief, brieve; disease, decease; fat, vat; rifle, rival; talc, talk; thy, thigh. It is hard to believe that any local dialect could make homophones of these examples, even with careless, slovenly pronunciation. And that kind of pronunciation is not acceptable to teachers of English. There are plenty of true homophones that we don't have to resort to misleading the reader by including such discernably different pronunciations, unless one has to have so many pages to make a book. Altogether, in the first book approximately 1/8th of the entries in the 20 pages are questionable, while in "Which Witch" at least 1/3 of the entries are illegitimate by our standards.

And of course, since the British do not usually pronounce wh any differently than W, we find such pairs as Americans and Scotch differentiate:

wac, whack	wear, where	winnie, whinny	woe, whoa
wade, wheyed	wen, when	win, whin	wist, whist
wail, whale	were, whirr	wine, whine	wit, whit
warry, wherry	weather, whether	wise, why's	worry, whirry
watt, what	wet, whet	wish, whish	y, why
way, whey	wig, whig	witch, which	wop, whop
weal, wheel	wight, white	wither, whither	
wean, wheen	wile, while	wiz, whizz	

However, this 218 page book is not without some redeeming features. The 16 page introduction, "Sight, Sense and Sound" shows that the author has a sense of humor. He admits "it is not a

dictionary of homonyms: it is not, strictly speaking, a dictionary. Strangers to our strange English tongue are advised not to take the gloss given for each word as a full and satisfactory definition but to consult 'The Oxford English Dictionary' wherin many nuances of meaning, not given in his pages, will be found."

He goes on, "In the following groups of words, homophones and homographs, whether they be true or false, are stood together in line, defined accurately and as copiously as space will permit, then compelled to do a sort of figure dance in which they fit into a place but at the same time assert their individualities."

"Precognition normally (or rather, abnormally) demands the exercise of Extra Sensory Preception, but none is needed to hear ahead the roar of dissenting voices all excitedly asserting that the pairs of words on page x, and the triplets on page y, are not only not homophonous, but are wide asunder in the scale of sound, and only a person with a diseased ear could have brought them together; or, if it is not due to auditory degeneracy, it is a symptom of crass ignorance, an error of comparative phonetics that could have been made only by one unaccustomed to speaking 'the Queen's English'."

It is acknowledged by everyone from Aberdeen that there, and only there, is pure, unadulterated, non-distorted Queen's English spoken. The same may be said for Belfast, Dublin, Cardiff, Earby, Wigan and where you are."

"Of course, people who speak correctly\* (\*Public Schools Pronunciation, is correct because it is accepted as correct, but it is, in itself, a sort of acquired dialect), (and that category does not include the 'naicely spooken') make a quite audible distinction between the elements of some of the pairs following, but 'life is real and life is earnest' and the average person cannot pick a delicate path between perfect elocutionists."

"Shorthand typists, girls leaving school with the essential G.C.E. (General Certificate Education), and instantly becoming 'secretaries', are productive of phonetic errors which ought to make them famous, but which, as a rule, simply have the effect of angering their employers (if they notice). It is certainly reprehensible, and it is a disgrace to the teaching profession and an indictment against our painfully expensive educational system, that these girls sometimes do not know 'which witch': but phonetical errors involving a phrase are often in a different case, and sometimes it takes two to produce them."

"A writer who dictated an article on that overhwelming Cockney cariacaturist of the late 19th to early 20th centuries, Phil May, was shocked to read, each time the name occurred in the typescript, 'Film A'. The cinema obviously fell within the girl's world; but to her, the period of King Edward VII was ancient history. How much more remote the Middle Ages were to an uneducated G.C.E. holder appeared when the dictated sentence, 'at that time the work was executed by lay scholars,' was rendered on the typed page as, 'at that time the work was executed by lace collars'.

"In the foregoing examples, both of the employers had a little responsibility for the errors, but very little, because neither Phil May nor lay scholars ought to be unrecognizable to the G.C.E. holder, but when a girl received the sentence 'insurance cover while he is in America,' she is wholly to blame for typing 'insurance cover. Wiley is in America."

"Robert Bridges says, in S.P.E. Tract No. 2, 'it is needful to state that homophonous words must be

different words, else we should include a whole class of words which are not true homophones.' He uses as an example the words 'draft-draught,' divergent in both spelling and meaning but ultimately converging on the idea 'to draw' and many different things can be drawn in a variety of ways."

"Because Robert Bridges was writing for a specializing public, he was well advised to *exclude false homophones*, but this book is directed to the general public: hence, words of the nature of those excluded from the tract are here included because, to the average person, when a word, spelt and spoken in precisely the same way, has two apparently totally unrelated meanings, it is two words notwithstanding that scholars insist its being but one, and diversity of spelling strengthens the illusion."

"The Poet Laureate of the period of S.P.E. Tract No. 2 displayed in his work a strong dislike of homophones and he revealed a sensitiveness to the sounds of words that only a poet may possess. He asserted that 'homophones are a nuisance, they are exceptionally frequent in English, they are self-destructive and tend to become obsolete'."

"Few speakers of English are aware of the elasticity and flexibility of the language; fewer still appreciate its expressiveness and its beauty, its poetic quality. Robert Bridges, being Poet Laureate, and more, a master of English, was supremely conscious of all the virtues the language possesses, and was super-sensitive to the sound of words. To him, 'see the sea' would have been impossible, but to the average speaker, 'see the ocean,' or 'the deep' or 'the main' is ostentatious."

"This essay does not plead for the preservation of homophones, neither does it demand their destruction: the glossary following does not exist to expose the horror of the homophone nor to demonstrate its desirability. If this book has a purpose, it is to present the humour of the homophone and, secondarily, to save the shorthand-typist from anxiously chewing her pencil while she wonders 'which witch.' Nevertheless, in support of one of Robert Bridges' motives of dislike, there is, implicit in this book, an overwhelming demonstration that our golden tongue can become, by way of the pen of the insensitive writer, a confused and confusing jumble of meaningless repetition."

"Homonyms are inherently humorous; and it may be merely a coincidence that the nations speaking the languages that largely harbour them are noted for their high senses of humour. It is acknowledged that we survived the war of 1914-18 because, among our superiorities, was the ability to laugh our way to what passed as Victory. The enemy, aware of this, and secretly planning the second war, employed a ponderous Herr-Doctor to produce a book for use in the future training of Hun-officers, so that they would know exactly when to order the troops to laugh. The Herr-Doctor-Professor employed the works of Bruce Bairnsfather as his raw material."

"John Entick, born about 1703, was a man of parts: an author, a historian of London, a politician and a journalist as well as being a schoolmaster in Stepney, where he died in 1773. Among his numerous and voluminous works is his *Spelling Dictionary* which was first published in 1764. There was a revised edition in 1773, a re-issue in 1776 and, under the editorship of others, at least five more editions down to 1800, and reprints till as late as 1825."

"In the edition of 1791, perhaps too in earlier editions, there appears, commencing on page ix, 'A Table of Words That are Alike, or nearly so, in Sound, but differing in Spelling and Signification'; in short, a list of homophones. This list, containing in round figures, 450 groups, is most interesting because more can be read than is printed there. One may see in it phonetical groupings that would

not suggest itself today; 'do' and 'doe', 'coin'd' and 'kind', 'ear' and 'year', 'earth' and 'hearth', to select but a few at random."

"The phonetician does not need to enjoy himself reading the novels of two centuries ago in order to discover linguistical sound change: he can stick to the dictionary."

"Entick's work, the declared purpose of which was to teach, 'To Write and Pronounce the English Tongue with Ease and Propriety', was too popular for the grouping of its homophones to have been idiosyncratic on the part of either John Entick himself or that of a subsequent editor. The great lesson to be learnt is that homophony is local in time as well as in space: the homophones of 1764 are not quite the same as those of 1964 (the date of this writing), and we have already stresst that the homophones north of Trent differ from those recognized south of that select boundary."

It is ardently to be hoped that a new, ugly, traditionless alphabet is never introduced for if it were it would cut English literary history off short. In a generation no one would be able to read anything that had been printed in the past. If, however, an author feels he must write in Cockney dialect in spite of there being no need for him to do so (see *The Cockney*, by Julian Franklyn, 1953), he must run the risk of writing homophones: for example, 'snow ink tar law fat,' (its no thing to laugh at)."

"Language is more than words; it is part of human life, and the evolutionary process is forever creating. Speech-form changes, and so does script, by a slow and natural process, part of which seems to be over the stepping-stones of homonyms. The following words were currently so spelt down to the 15th century: ansquere (answer), auncyet (ancient), ben (has been), baenynge (burning), dowghtier (daughter), eyre (heir), fautys (faults), her or heir (their or there), pore (poor), qwose (whose), steyne (certain), sufferyn (sovereign), ystis (gifts), It is, perhaps, necessary to emphasize that the foregoing words are English. The change in spelling reflects sound change, not reform. The change in cursive script is as great as the evident spelling change, and the implied sound change. The printing type-face has kept pace: we are a long way from 'Block letter', and these developments in speaking, in writing, and in printing have been facilitated by the nimble homophone which seems to act as a catalyst."

"Enough has been said to indicate the havoc wrought upon the language by a combination of carelessness, sloven articulation, divided attention and crass ignorance, an alliance that is always with us. By comparison, homophones are harmless, although they are often accused of sabotage and are, in consequence, mercilessly condemned to death."

"There are miserable repentant sinners who remain repentant and continue to sin: then there are gleeful obdurate sinners who glory in having done it, and who seldom, if ever, do it again. This author, being himself included in the latter category, makes no apology for having, in this grouped glossary, strained phonetics to the bending – if not breaking point.

"Since morality is a matter not of universal norms but of time, place and people, he is satisfied that his iniquities will not be condemned by the word-conscious, laughter-loving Cockney who, in most cases, will not notice the deviations all of which incline in his direction.

"The Northern men will notice but in the generosity of their hearts forgive: they do not expect a Southerner to know how to pronounce the mother tongue. It is the pedants (whom we acknowledge to be strictly correct) who will, on recovering from the shock, express their disaproval in

unmistakable, though of course, non-violent terms. To take their trouncing is a normal professional hazard."

"Yes, we could certainly have done worse in the estimation of our adverse critics: what distresses us is that we could not, in our own estimation, do better, without forgetting our Cockney friends."

Knowing the objective of this author will help us to forgive him for including those items that the pedants will deplore. In some respects it is an insight into the Cockney dialect, even tho we do not agree with many of his ideas of homophonous pronunciation.

For a complete explanation of the terminology: homonym, homophone, homograph, heteronym, heterograph, see the previous dissertation, of which this is a sequel. Suffice it to say here, much confusion still exists over this terminology: homonym, homophone. In this (and the previous monograph) the term Homonym is used only to refer to those words both sounded and spelt alike, but differing in origin and meaning. Homophone is used to group two or more words sounded alike but spelt differently. This has the definite advantage of separating the two terms and removing the confusion of overlapping.

A rather comprehensive listing of homonyms (as of 1882-1909) can be found in Skeat: Etymological Dictionary. This list has 1782 homonyms in 784 sets of pairs, triplets, quadruplets (bay has six meanings). Most of these are also correctly termed homographs. It does not say that the list is complete, and it does not include such commonly known homonyms as: molar (pertaining to teeth), --(pertaining to mass of matter), and such homographs as: minute, --time, --small. Undoubtedly there are many new homonyms created by new scientific uses, inventions, and the consequent terminology. As a complete listing of these words would also require their definitions in order to understand them, the space requirements will not permit them to be listed here. Since most words with many multiple meanings have among them several homonyms, one can guess that a complete listing would become a fair sized book. Almost every other page in the Random House Unabridged Dictionary , 1966, (which was used as the arbiter for pronunciation) contains a set of homonyms. With 1664 pages, a rough estimate would give over 840 or so sets of homonyms – somewhat more than in Skeat: Etymological Dictionary.

The listing of homophones (table 2) is considered to be fairly complete, but the author would welcome any additions that may have been overlookt. This table is supposed not to include mere variant spellings for the same meaning. The same sounding word may be found in several places depending on how many spellings occur for the same sounded word. There is also a table of 42 pages of homophones in a little known speller: A New Speller (sic!), Anonymous, published by Hinds & Noble, 4-5, Cooper Institute, N.Y. 1898. This book contains about half the homophones listed here and has a 9 page list of the accent variation homographs, and a list of false homophones – "words often confused in spelling, pronunciation, or meaning."

The listing of homographs (table 3, parts 1 and 2) is supposed to be fairly complete, but additions will be welcomed. Homographs are also, by definition, the same as the first part of the definition of heteronyms:

- "1. a word spelt the same as another, but differing in sound and meaning, as sow (a pig) and sow (to strew seed).
- 2. a different name for the same thing, especially a name that exactly translates a name in another language, as bread is a heteronym of the German word brot." (Webster's New International, 1934).

#2 is not included in the meaning of homograph, q.v. This means that many foreign languages need to be consulted in order to get even a reasonably complete list. For this reason the table included here is only representative.

Some of the arguments in favor of a reform of our spelling include the fact that almost any kind of a reasonably phonetic spelling system would, by its very nature, eliminate the 323 homographic sets (656 words) and thereby eliminate the confusion caused by them. But at the same time, it would also eliminate the different spellings of homophones. Since there are about three times as many homophones as homographs, this would appear to offer a bad bargain, since it would eliminate the differences in spelling we now use to show meaning and prevent misunderstanding. Some reformers have offered 2 alternate spellings such as: made, maed. However, they apparently never realized that thousands of words have multiple meanings (that include homophones) that seldom cause us trouble. "Run" tops the list with 104 different meanings, break has 43, cut 42, fall 64, spring 40, make 57, turn 62, light 64, strike 68, square 39, to mention just a few. We use them carefully so that they do not need a difference in spelling in order to convey the right meaning.

On this subject, Ben Franklin said, "Your second inconvenience is, that 'the distinction between words of different meaning and similar sound would be destroyed." That distinction is already destroyed in pronouncing them; and we relie on the sense alone of the sentence to ascertain which of the several words, similar in sound, we intend. If this is sufficient in the rapidilty of discourse, it will be much more so in written sentences which may be read leisurely, and attended to more particularly in the case of difficulty, than we can attend to a past sentence while the speaker is hurrying us along with new ones."

Table # 1, Homonyms. See Skeat: Etymological Dictionary.

Table 2, Homophones. 'It is not intended that mere variations in spelling be included. The same sounded words may be found in several places according to their spelling.

airship, heirship,

aloud, alowed, altar, alter, amend, amende,

all, awl,

a, ay, aye, eh,
abbe, abbey, abby,
abel, able,
abess, abyss,
accidence, accidents,
acclamation, acclimation,
acts, ax, axe,
achre, acre, achor,
adds, adz, adze,
adherence, adherents,
aisle, I'll, isle,
ait, ate, eight,
ail, ale,
air, e'er, ere, heir,

B, be, bee, Bea,

bacon, baken,

baa, bah,

bad, bade,

an, ann, Anne,
anchor, anker,
anchorite, ankerite,
annalist, analyst,
ant, aunt,
ante, anti,
appetite, apatite,
auricle, oracle,
arc, ark,
been, bin,
beer, bier,
beet, beat,
berry, bury,

area, arra,
ascent, assent,
ate, ait, eight,
attendance, attendants,
aught, ought,
aural, oral,
aureol, oriole,
auger, augur,
aught, ought,
aune, on,
auricle, oracle,
away, aweigh,
ax, axe, acts,
axal, axel, axile, axle.

border, boarder,

bore, boar, bohr,

born, bourn, borne,

borough, burrow, burro,

area, aria.

bail, bale, bel, bain, bane, bairn, barn, bait, bate, baize, bays, bald, balled, bawled,

ball, bawl, band, banned, banded, bandied, bans, bands,

barbary, barberry, barbery,

bard, barred, bare, bear, bark, barque, baron, barren,

baroness, barrenness,

base, bass,

based, bast, baste, bask, basque, batten, baton, battle, battel, baulks, bocks, box,

bay, bey, bays, baise, be, bee, B, Bea, beach, beech,

beadle, bedell, bedell,

beam, beem, bear, bare, beat, beet, beau, bow, bo, beck, bec, bee, be, B, Bea, begin, beguin, bell, belle,

C, sea, see, seas, sees, sieze, cab, kab, cache, cash, caddy, cade, cain, cane, calendar, calender,

call, caul, can, kahn, kan, candid, candied, cannon, canon,

berth, birth, better, bettor, bey, bay,

bi, buy, by, bye,

bib, bibb, bier, beer, big, bigg, bight, bite, billed, build,

bird, burred, burd, birl, burl, birr, bur, burr, birth, berth, bit, bitt,

blew, blue, bloat, blote, block, bloc, blue, blew, bo, beau, bow, boar, bore, boer, board, bored, boarder, border, boat, bote,

bocks, box, bode, bowed, bodies, body's, boer, boar, bore, bogie, bogey,

boil, boyle, bolar, bowler, bold, bowled, bolled,

bolder, boulder, bole, boll, bowl, boos, booze, bowse,

bops, bopse,

chance, chants, chanty, shanty, chassed, chaste, cheap, cheep, chews, choose, chilli, chilly, Chile, choir, quire, choler, collar, choral, coral,

chorale, corral, chord, cord,

boule, buhle, bow, beau, bo, bow, bough, bowl, boul,

bowse, booze, boos,

boy, bouy, brae, bray,

braes, braise, braze, brays,

braid, brayed, brail, braille, brake, break, bray, brae,

brays, braise, braze, braes,

breach, breech, breaches, breeches?

break, brake, bread, bred, brewed, brood, brews, bruise, bridal, bridle, Briton, Britain, broach, brooch, broom, brume, brows, browse, bruise, brews, bruit, brute, buff, buffe, build, billed, bun, bonne, bur, burr, birr, burg, berg,

burro, burrow, borough,

bury, burry, but, butt, buy, by, bye, buyer, byre.

concert, consort, conker, conquer, conkers, conquers, concent, consent, confident, confident, consequence, consequents, consol, console, consul, consonance, consonants, concession, consession,

coo, coup,

cooly, coolly, coolie,

cant, can't, kant, cantor, canter canvas, canvass, capital, capitol, carat, carrot, karrat, carol, caroll, cart, carte, quart, career, currier, carrot, carat, caret, cash, cache, cask, casque, cast, caste, caster, castor, castile, cast steel, cote, kote, caudal, caudle, cause, caws, cavalier, caviller, cavy, cavie, cede, seed, ceil, seal, sele, seel, ceiling, sealing, cele, cell, sell, cellar, seller, celt, kelt, cense, cents, sense, scents, censer, censor, censual, sensual, cent, sent, scent, cerate, cirrate, serrate, cere, seer, sear, sere, cereal, serial, cereous, serious, cession, session, cited, sighted, sited, clamant, claimant, clause, claws, cetaceous, setaceous,

D, de, dee, dace, dais, dak, dack, dac, dam, damn, dane, deign, day, dey, days, daze, deys, daisey's, daisies,

Champaign, champagne,

chough, chuff, chris, kris, chronical, chronicle, chuff, chough, chute, shoot cilicious, silicious -cide, -side cing, sink cion, scion, sion cipher, sypher, circle, sercle, cist, cyst, cit, sit, cite, sight, site, cleave, cleve, cleek, clique, climb, clime,

close, clothes, cloze, coal, coll, kohl, coaled, cold, coals, colds,

coarse, corse, course, coarser, courser, coat, cote, cocks, cox, coco, cocoa codling, coddling, coff, cough, coffer, cougher, coign, coigne, coin, quoin, colation, collation, cold, coaled, colonel, kernal, color, culler, comb, coomb, complacent, complaisant,

complacence, complaisance, compliment, complement, con, con,

descendent, descendant, descent, dissent, descension, dissension, desert, dessert, dissert, deuce, duce, devest, divest, deviser, devisor, divisor, dew, do, due, coom, coomb, cops, copse, coquet, coquette, coral, choral, core, corps, cored, cord, chord, corporal, corporeal, corral, chorale, correspondence, correspondents, cosier, cozier, council, counsel, courier, currier, course, coarse, courser, coarser, courtesy, curtesy, cousin, cozen, coward, cowherd, cowered, coyn, coyne, coin, quoin, creak, creek, crease, creese, crewed, crude, crewel, cruel, crews, cruise, cruse, crouse, cross, crosse, crude, crewed, cruise, cruse, crews, crouse, cue, queue, kew, Q, culler, color, currassow, curacao, currant, current, currier, career? curtesy, courtesy, custodes, custodies, cygnet, signet, cymbal, symbol, cymical, simical, cypress, cyprus, cypres,

dor, door, dorr,
dost, dust, dossed,
dotty, dottie,
doubt, dout, dought,
dough, doe, do, dow, doh,
douse, dowse,
dour, doer, dure,
drachm, dram,

cyst, cist.

dean, dene,
dear, deer,
defer, defur,
degrease, degreese,
deign, dane,
demean, demesne,
dene, dean,
dense, dents,
dental, dentelle, dentil,
dependence, dependents
dependent, dependent
depose, depots,
depravation, deprivation

E's, ease, earing, earring, earn, urn, erne, ease, E's, eau, owe, oh, eaves, eves, eve's e'er, air, ere, -ery, -ary, eight, ait, ate,

faille, file, fain, feign, fane, faint, feint, fair, fare, fairy, ferry, faker, fakir false, faults, fane, fain, feign, fare, fair, fate, fete, faults, false, faun, fawn, fay, fey, fays, phase, feal, feel, fear, fere feat, feet, feaze, feeze, fees, feign, fain, fane, feint, faint, felloe, fellow,

fens, fence, ferrule, ferule, dhole, dole,
di-, die, dye,
dine, dyne,
dire, dyer,
diarest, direst,
discreet, discrete,
disgust, discussed?
dissent, descent,
do, dew,
do, doe, dough, dow, doh,
doer, dure,

ell, L
eighty, a'te,
elision, elysian,
em, M,
ere, air, e'er, eyre.
erne, earn,
errant, arrant,
eth, edth,
ethel, ethyl,

does, doze,

done, dun,

fetid, feted, feu, few, feud, feod, file, faille, phial, filip, philip, Phillip, filter, philter, fin, Finn, find, fined, fir, fur, firs, furs, furse, firred, furred, firry, furry, fissure, fisher, fizz, phiz, flair, flare, flay, fley, flea, flee, flesche, flesh, flew, flu, flue, flight, flite, flo, floe, flow, floc, flock, flocks, phlox,

draft, drought,
dram, drachm,
droop, drupe,
dual, duel,
duct, ducked,
due, dew, do,
dun, done,
dup, dupe,
dust, dost, dossed,
dye, die,
dyer, dire
dyeing, dying,

ewe, you, yew, U, hue? ewer, your, yore, you're ewes, yews, use, hues? exorcise, exercise, eye, I, aye, ay, eyelet, islet, eyes, I's, ayes, eyre, air, e'er, ere,

floe, flo, flow, flier, flyer, flour, flower, foald, fold, for, four, fore, forbear, forebear forego, forgo, form, forme, fort, forte, forth, fourth, foul, fowl, frae, fray, frey, franc, frank, frays, phrase, fraise, freeze, frieze, frees, friar, frier, fryer, frieze, freeze, frees, fro, froe, frow, fryer, friar, frier, fungous, fungus, fur, fir, furred, firred, furs, furse,

furry, firry,

G, ge, gee, gable, gabel, gael, gale, gage, gauge, gait, gate, gall, gaul, gam, gamb, gamble, gambol, gaol, jail, gait, gate, gaub, gob, gaud, god? gauger, gager, gay's, gaze, ged, gedd, gel, jell, gem, jem, ghyll, gill, gib, gibb, gibe, jibe, gybe,

haaf, half,
hae, hay, hey,
hail, hale,
hair, hare,
hall, haul,
hallo, hallow, hullo,
hands, hans,
hart, heart,
haul, hall,
haws, hawse,
heal, heel, he'll,
hear, here,
heard, herd, hurd,
hearse, herse,
heart, hart,

I, eye, ay, aye, idle, idol, idyll, -ile, I'll, isle, aisle, imperial, impereal, imprest, impressed, in, inn,

he'd, heed,

gild, gilled, guild, gilt, guilt, gin, jinn, glair, glare, glows, gloze, glume, gloom, gnar, knar,

gnu, knew, new, nu,

gneiss, nice, gnome, nome, goer, gore, goffer, golfer gold, goaled, gored, gourd, gores, gorse, gourd, gored,

grade, grayed, greyed,

grate, great, grater, greater, gray, greige,

height, hight, heir, air, ere, e'er Hel, hell, he'll, heal, heel,

her, herr,

herd, heard, hurd,

here, hear, herl, hurl, hew, hue, Hugh,

hey, hay hie, high, hi! hied, hide,

higher, hier, hire, him, hymn, hissed, hist, ho, hoe,

incidence, incidents, incite, insight, indict, indite, indicted, indited, indicter, inditer, indiscreet, indiscrete, ingenious, ingenuous?

jest, jessed, gest,

graz, graze, gray's
grey's,greaves, grieves,
greece, grease,
griff, griffe,
greave, grieve,
grill, grille,
grills, grilles,
grip, grippe,
grisly, grizzly, gristly,
groan, grown, growan,
grocer, grosser,
groin, groyne,
grow, gros,
groom, grume,
guessed, guest, gest,

guide, guyed, guild, gild, guilt, gilt, guise, guy's, gybe, gibe, jibe,

hoar, whore,
hoard, hord, whored,
hoarse, horse,
ho, hoe,
hoes, hose,
hold, holed,
hole, whole,
holm, home,
hollo, hollow,
holy, wholly, holey,
hoop, whoop,
hour, our,

hoop, whoop, hour, our, house, how's, hue, hew, Hugh, humerous, humerus, hymn, him,

innocence, innocents, instance, instants, intense, intents, intention, intension, intern, interne, inturn, invade, inveighed, isle, -ile, I'll, aisle,

Jo, Joe,

J, jay,

jain, Jane, Jayne, jam, jamb, gamb, Jeannie, genie,

K, Kay,
kail, kale,
kaki, khaki,
kame, came,
Kandy, candy,
karat, carat, carrot,
Kate, cate,
kef, keef, kief, kaif,
keir, kier,
kelpie, kelpy,

kerb, curb,

kernal, colonel,

L, ell, el, lac, lack, lakh, lacks, lax, lade, laid, laeger, lager, lain, lane, lair, layer, lall, loll, lam, lamb, lama, llama, lane, lain, lantern, lantharn, lap, Lapp, Lapp's, laps, lapse, Latin, latten, launce, lance, lax, lacks, layed, laid lays, laze, lard, laird, lea, lee, lie, leach, leech, lead, led, lead, lied, leed, leaf, lief,

made, maid, Mae, may, mail, male, main, mane,

leak, leek,

jewry, jury, jinks, jinx, jinn, gin,

kew, cue, Q, queue, key, quay, khan, can, khol, coal, kill, kiln, knag, nag, knap, nap, knar, gnar, knave, nave, knead, kneed, need,

knell, nell, knew, new, gnu,

kneel, neal,

lien, ligne, Lent, lent, lear, leer, leas, lees, leased, least, leave, lieve, Leicester, lester, led, lead, lee, lea, lie, leech, leach, lends, lens, lessen, lesson, lesser, lessor, let, Lett, levee, levy, lew, lieu, lou, liar, lyre, lier, licker, liquor, lichen, liken, lie, lea, lee, lie, lye, lice, lyse, lied, lead, leed, lief, leaf,

meak, meek, mean, mien, mesne, meat, meet, mete,

lien, lean,

lieu, -loo, loe,

joule, jowl, joust, just, juice, jus,

knight, night,
knit, nit,
knob, nob,
knock, nock,
knot, not,
know, no,
knows, noes, nose,
knut, canute,
koel, coal, kohl,

kop, cop, kopje, copy, kris, chris kroon, croon,

lieve, leave, light, lite, lightening, lightning, ligne, lean, lien, limb, limn, links, lynx,

links, lynx, literal, litteral, lo, low, Lowe, loe, load, lode, lowed, loan, lone,

lock, loch, lough, loon, lune, loose, luce, looks, luxe, loot, lute, lory, lorry, loup, loo,

low, lo, loe, lowe, lowed, load, luce, loose lumbar, lumber, lute, loot, lye, lie, lynx, links,

missed, mist, mite, might, miter, mitre,

lyre, liar,

maize, maze, mall, maul, mahl, main, mane, maize, maze, manakin, manikin, mannequinn, mandrill, mandrill, manner, mannor, man's, manse, mantel, mantle, Marc, mark, marque, mare, mayor, marlin, marline, marquee, marquis, marry, Mary, merry, marshal, Marshall, martial, marten, Martin, mask, masque, mast, massed, mat, matte, mays, maze, mead, meed, Mede,

nae, nay, neigh nag, knag nap, knap naught, nought nave, knave naval, navel nay, nae, neigh neal, kneel near, ne'er neat, neet

O, oh, owe, oar, or, oter, ore, oary, ori? od, odd ode, owed oh, O, owe, O'

P, pea, pee pa, pas paced, paste packs, pax paean, peon page, paige pail, pale

medal, meddle, meddler, medlar, men's, mense, mere, mir, metal, mettle, meter, metre, mete, meat, meet, mettle, metal, Meuse, mews, muse,

mew, mue,

mews, muse, Meuse, mien, mean, mesne,

might, mite, mil, mill,

mewl, mule,

millenary, millinery, mince, mints, mind, mined, minds, mines, miner, minor,

mire, myer,

missal, missel, missile, mistle,

nee, knee need, knead Nell, knell neigh, nae, nay nit, knit net, nett

new, nu, gnu, knew, nice, gneiss night, knight no, know

one, won oracle, auricle ordinance, ordanance, ordonnance ore, o'er, oar, or

oriole, aureole

pyxie, pixy pedal, peddle peer, pier pelisse, police peened, piend

pencel, pencil, pensile, pensil pendant, pendent

mity, mighty, moan, mown, moat, mote, mode, mowed, molar, moler? mold, mould, mood, mooed, moose, mousse, morn, mourn,

morning, mourning,

mot, mow, mote, moat, mucous, mucus, mue, mew, mule, mewl, murre, myhrr murine, murrhine, muscle, mussel, muse, mews, Meuse, must, musth,

mustard, mustered, musth, must,

nob, knob nock, knock

nocks, nox, Knox, knocks

nome, gnome none, nun

nose, knows, noes not, knot

nous, noose

nox, nocks, knocks, Knox

ottar, otter our, hour ought, aught owe, oh, O, O' owed, ode

plier, plyer pneu-, new, knew pole, poll polar, poler poly, Polly pomace, pumice

poem, pome

pain, pane pair, pare, pear palace, pallas palate, pallette, pallet, palet paling, pailing pall, Paul, pawl pallet, pallette, palate, palet pan, panne pane, pain, par, parr pare, pear, pair parish, perish passable, passible passed, past paste, paced patience, patients paten, patten Paul, pawl, pall pause, paws pax, packs pea, pee, P pneu peace, piece peag, pig peak, peek, pique peal, peel pealing, peeling pean, peen pear, pair, pare pearl, purl peat, peet

Q, queue, cue, kew quarts, quartz quad, quod quay, key

pech, peck

putsch, pooch

R, are, aar rabbet, rabbit race, reis racket, raquet radicle, radical raid, rayed rail, rale rain, reign, rein raise, rays, raze raiser, razor

penni, penny per, pur, purr perse, purse pervade, purveyed petal, pettle petral, petrol, petrol pew, pugh phial, vial, viol, vile phial, file Philip, Phillip, fillip philter, filter phlox, flocks, flocs phrase, frays, fraise pi, pie, pye pica, pika picks, pix, pyx picked, pict picot, Pico piece, peace

pile, Pyle
pillar, piller, pillor
pistil, pistol, pistle, pistole
place, plaice
plack, plaque
plain, plane, plein
plait, plate
plantar, planter
pleas, please
plein, plain, plane
plum, plumb

pier, peer

quean, queen queerest, querist quenelle, kennel

recks, rex
red, redd, read
reek, wreak, ryke
reflex, reflects
rei, ray, rey
reif, reef
reign, rain, rein
reis, race
remark, remarque
repair, repare

pomel, pommel, pummel populace, populous pore, pour poring, pouring port, porte pox, pocks pole, poll police, pelisse practice, practise praise, prays, prase, preys pray, prey prays, praise, prase, preys presence, presents pressed, prest presser, pressor pride, pried prier, prior, Pryor priest, preest pries, prize prince, prints princess, princesse principal, principle prior, prier, Pryor prophecy, prophesy

prize, pries psalter, salter, saltire puisne, punny purl, pearl purs, purse

profit, prophet

prose, pros

queue, cue, kew, Q quire, choir quoin, coin, coign

roc, rock
roe, row
roes, rose, rows
role, roll
Rome, roam
rondeau, rondo
rood, rude, rued
room, rheum
roose, ruse
root, route

rancor, ranker
rap, wrap
rapped, rapt, wrapped, wrapt
raught, wraught
rapping, wrapping
rath, wrath
ratten, ratton
rax, racks, wracks
rayed, raid
razor, raiser
read, red, redd
read, reed, rede
real, reel

reave, reeve recede, reseed reek, wreck residence, residents

resign, re-sign? review, revue

sac, sack, saque safe, seif sail, sale sailer, sailor sain, sane, seine salad, salade

salter, psalter, saltire same, sejm, saim sane, seine sank, cinq

sari, sorry saugh, salk saver, savor scald, skald scat, skat scaur, score scend, send

scene, seen scent, cent, sent Scilly, silly scull, skull sea, C, see, si seal, sele, seel, ciel

sealing, ceiling seamen, semen seam, seem

seamed, seemed seas, sees, sieze

repast, repassed reseat, receipt

rest, wrest retch, wretch rheum, room rheo-, riorho, roe, row

Rhodes, roads,

Rhone, roan, rowan, rown

rhumb, rum rhyme, rime

right, rite, write, wright

riot, ryot ring, wring

road, rode, roed, rowed

roads, Rhodes roam, Rome

roan, Rhone, rown, rowan

rose, roes, rows rote, wrote rows, rouse rough, ruff rouse, rows rout, route, rowte

roux, rue

rows, rose, roes rowed, road rude, rued, rood

rue, roux rues, ruse ruff, rough rum, rhumb rung, wrung -rye, wry ryke, reek ryot, riot

sewer, suer sex, sects

sext, sexed shake, sheik shanty, chanty

she, ski, shea shear, sheer

shoe, shoo

shone, shown shoot, chute shown, shone Si, sea, see, C sic, sick, sike

side, -side, sighed, -cide

sigher, sire sigh, sie

sight, site, cite, -cyte

sighs, size

sighted, cited, sited sign, sine, syne signet, cygnet sike, sick, sic sikh, seek

silicious, cilicious silly, Scilly

sine, sign, syne, sin-

sink, cinq Sir-, sursorry, sari soul, sole souled, sold sow, sew, so, soe sower, soar, sewer

spae, spay

spear, speer, speir spec, speck speel, speil speiss, spice spelled, spelt

stable, stabile staid, stayed stair, stare stake, steak

stationary, stationery

stay, stey stayed, staid steal, steel, stele stear, steer, stere steely, stele step, steppe stere, stear, steer stick, stich sticks, Styx stile, style

stoop, stoup, stupe

stoat, stoit

sear, ser, se'er, seer, cere second, seconde sects, sex seder, cedar, seeder see, sea, C, si seed, cede seek, sikh seel, ceil, seal seem, seam seen, scene seine, sane, sain seer, sear, cere, ser seignor, senior seize, seas, sees, seise sejm, same sel, sell, cell, cele

seller, cellar
senior, seignior, seigneur
sense, cents, scents
sensual, censual
sent, scent, cent
septic, sceptic
sere, cere, sear
serf, surf
serene, serine
serg, surge

serious, sirius, cereous serrate, cerate session, cession setaceous, cetaceous sew, so, soe, sow

sewn, sown sewer, sower

T, te, tea, tee, ti tacks, tax tact, tacked tael, tail, tale, taille tare, tear

tail, tale, taille, tael taper, tapir tare, tear tarrier, terrier tartarous, tartarus

tarry, terry tartar, tartare tass, tasse sist, cist site, cite, sight sited, cited, sighted

size, sighs six, sicks, sics skald, scald skat, scat ski, she

skull, scull

sky, skye slay, sleigh, sley sleave, sleeve sleight, slight

slew, slue, slough slough, slew, slue

sloe, slow

so, sew, sow, soe soak, soke soar, sore soared, sword solan, solon sold, soled, souled

sol, sole, soul some, sum son, sun, sunn sonny, sunny soot, suit, suite sou, sue sough, sow

sow, sew, so, soe soot, suit, suite sorrel, sorel

soul, sole

terain, terane tern, turn, terne ternary, turnery terrene, terrine terry, tarry

thae, they the, thee their, they're, there

threw, through, thru they, thae

throw, throe thrown, throne thyme, time stope, stowp story, storey straight, strait streak, streek study, studdie stoop, stoup, stupe

styx, sticks sty, stye subtile, subtle succor, sucker suede, swayed suer, sewer

suite, soot, suit, suite

suite, sweet sum, some sun, son, sunn sundae, sunday sunny, sonny surcle, circle sur-, sirsurf, serf, cerf surge, serge surplice, surplus suttle, subtle suttler, subtler swayed, suede sweet, suite sword, soared syck, sick

symbol, cymbol syn-, sin-, syne, sine, sign

sypher, cipher

toe, tow tole, toll

told, tolled, toled

tole, toll

ton, tonne, tun
tore, torque
tor, tore
tool, tulle
toom, tomb
toon, tune
tope, taupe
tough, tuff
tout, toot

tau, taw
taught, taut
taupe, tope
tax, tacks
tacked, tact
tea, T, tee, ti
teal, teel, teil
team, teem
tear, tare
tear, tier
teas, tease, tees
tenner, tenor
tense, tents
terce, terse, tierce

U, ewe, yew, you underway, underweigh

vary, very vail, veil, vale vain, vane, vein

waddy, wadi wade, weighed wae, way, weigh wail, wale wailes, wales wain, wane wair, wear, ware waist, waste wait, weight waiter, weighter waive, wave waiver, waver walk, wauk wall, wawl, waul wally, waly wane, wain want, wont war, wore ware, wear ward, warred ware, wear warn, worn wart, wort waste, waist wat, watt, wot

wauk, walk

ti, tee, tea, T tic, tick tical, tickle tide, tied

ti's, tease, teas, tees tier, tear tier, tire, tyre tierce, terse, terce timber, timbre time, thyme tire, tier, tyre to, too, two tocsin, toxin toad, towed, toed

undo, undue unreal, unreel

venus, venous vertu, virtue vial, phial, viol

weak, week weald, wield weakly, weekly weal, we'll, wheal weald, wield wean, ween weather, wether web, webb wean, ween wear, ware weighed, wade weight, wait weather, wether weaver, weever we, wee, wie week, weak ween, wean weever, weaver weigh, way, wae weight, wait weighter, waiter weld, welled were, we're wether, weather

wheal, wheel

whirl, whorl

tow, toe

towed, toad, toed toxin, tocsin tracked, tract tray, trey treaties, treaty's

troche, trochee troupe, troop trust, trussed trustee, trusty tulle, tool tun, ton twill, twill two, to, too

urn, earn

vice, vise villain, villein vide, vied

whoop, hoop whored, hoard wight, wite wild, wiled

wind, wined, wynd wines, winze witch, wych with, withe wise, Y's

wont, want, won't

won, one
wood, would
wore, war
worst, wurst
wort, wart
wot, watt
would, wood
wrack, rack
wrap, rap

wrapped, wrapt, rapped wrapping, rapping wreak, reek

wreck, reck wrest, rest wretch, retch

wright, write, right, rite

waul, wall, wowl	whirled, whurled	wring, ring
waur, war	whisht, whist, wist	wrote, rote
wave, waive	whole, hole	wrung, rung
waver, waiver	wholly, holy	wry, rye
way, wae, weigh	whore, hoar	wurst, worst
we, wee, wie	wield, weald	wych, witch
Y, wye	yeld, yelled	yolk, yoke
yap, yapp	yew, you, ewe, U	you, ewe, yew, U
yaud, yawed, yauld	yews, use, ewes	yore, your, ewer, you're
		your, ewer, yore, you're
7		

Z, zee

# Table #3. Homographs

A fairly complete list of homographs of the English language compiled from Webster's Collegiate and the American College Dictionaries. The following list is divided into two parts; first: those true homographs which vary in pronunciation regardless of the location of the accent; secondly, those homographs which have a difference in pronunciation due to a shift in the location of the accent (the difference between the noun and the verb, adverb, or adjective).

# **#1 True Homographs**

abuse acerous ache adam address	adept ae agama agape aged	agora ai allegation alternate amen	ana appropriate arcing arcover are	argentine arsenic articulate as assay	ate aught axes ay aye
barrage bases bass	bear beloved	blessed bouse	bow bower	bowse buffet	bury? butte
caller carousal caste cel-	chamois chasse chap chay	chela chelated chimera chose	cirri- cist cleanly close	coax cog coma consume	cook coop, co-op coup courtesy
dais denier desert	diffuse digest dingy	disuse divers dives	do does don	dove dowse	dozen drawer
earn eat	-eat effuse	estimate	evening	excuse	exile?
fade fine	finance	firing	fond	forte	frow

gallant gantlet	gash genial	germinal gill	gin goal	gout grave	grease gyre
halter hap	haver heigh	hem here	hinder	house	humble
impious indict	-ine instance	invalid inwind	ion, -ion iron	irony -ise	-ite -ive
job	jus	key	kist	kosher	
lac lair lam lame lather	lave laver laura layer	lead leader leading learned	lei lie lineage live	lives liven longer loup	lower lown lunger lupine
mamma manes mant	mate mew minute	miscreant moderate mortgagor	mislead mot mouse	misuse mouth mow	mower multiply (3)
none o odic	notable one, -one	nowt orthoepy?	number os	nun outwind	overage
palpate palsy pan papa para pash pasty	pate, pate -ped per, per- perforate peri-, peri perse, per se piano	picked pique placer plait plano- polish poll	pool prayer precedent prelude premise premises	presage present primer probable produce progress	project provost pussy put putter putting quart
rabble raspberry? rath raven re read	reading reagent real realm really rearward	rebel recitative recollect record recount recover	recreate recreation refuse (3) renege resent resort	resign resound retrocede revel roman	root roup router row rower
sake salve (3) sardine sassy sate scutelate tamper	seer separate severer sewer shanty shiver	shower sin sine singer sinologest slaver taw	slavish slough (3) soe sow specs	spier stater stingy stipulate subordinate	suite sundry sumac supply swinger

tang	taurine	tear	tier	unionize (3)	use
vale wally	war weal	weir were	wilder wind	winding woody	wound yow
wan					

# Part 2, Homographs, accent variation

In the accent variation homographs, the verb is usually accented on the last syllable while the noun is usually accented on the first syllable.

absent abstract accent	address adept affect	affix air-lance	alternate annex	any one attribute	augment august bombard
canter choral colleague collect comate combine commerce commune	complex complot compound compress concert concrete conduct confect confessor	confine conflict confound conjure conscript conserve consol console consort	construct consult content contest context contract contrast convent converse	convert convict convoy coronal costume counterattack counterbalance countercharge	countercharm countercheck countermand countermarch countermind counterplot counterwork curvet
damascene decrease descant	desert detail	digest discard	discord discount	discourse downright	downstairs dry dock
egress eject encore	entrance escort	essay excess	excerpt excise	expert exploit	export extract
farewell ferment field work	fireproof forbear forcast	foredoom foretaste	foretoken forthright	foursquare freehand gallant	frequent freewill hallow
import impress imprest imprint incense incline	increase incurve indent infix infield ingrain	inlay inlet insert inset instar instinct	insult inter intercept interchange interdict	intergrade interlining intern intimate interplay	interlock intrigue introvert invalid invert
local	misconduct	misdate	misform	mislable	misterm
object obverse offset	outgo outlay outleap	outshoot outside outspread	overcharge overcheck	overhead overlap overlay	overprint overrun overset

offshore outcrop outcry outdoors outfield	outline outpour outreach outright	outwork overbid overburden overcall	overdose overflow overhand overhang	overmatch overman overpass overnight	overthrow overtime overturn overwork
pastel perfect perfume	permit perpend pervert	postulate premise prefix	presage prescribe	prescript proceed	protest purport quadruple
rampage rebound recall recess	redress re-export refer refill	reflex regress rehash reject	relay release repent	reprint resurvey retake	retail retire retread
shang-hai sub-contract	subject suffix	supine surcharge	surname titi	survey torment	suspect transfer transport
undercharge undercut underground	underhand underlay undersee	undress unhill unite	upcountry uplift uprise	upset upspring upstairs	upstart uptown upturn xray

# Table# 4, Heteronyms

- 1. Those homographs which (altho pronounced and spelt alike) have different meanings and derivation.
- 2. a different name for the same thing, esp. a name that exactly translates a name in another language, as bread is a heteronym of the German word, brot.

air force – luftwaffe	movies – kino
ami de cour – hollow friend	newsstand – kiosk
beer – bier	omnia opera – all the works
blood – blut	on dit – it is said
blue – blau	pax – peace
blizzard – scheesturm	paysage – landscape
crux - cross	printed matter – drucksache
cherry – kirsche	quick war – blitzkrieg
entente – understanding	quo animo – what intention?
lapsus calami-slip of the pen	regina – queen
locus-place	stupid head – dummkopf
misery enjoyment – schadenfreude	trouvaille – windfall
mote juste-right word	vox – voice

# 5. What Must We Change? by Gil Stevenson\*

\*Visiting Assist. Professor for Linguistics, English Dept., Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

It hardly need be argued that English spelling is in a dreadful mess and that its irregularities handicap not only foreigners learning our language, but our own children in learning to read. The problem has been documented, thoroly and eloquently, in the pages of this magazine, and innumerable alternatives to the present orthography, most of them having some merit, have been proposed in this journal and elsewhere.

One objection to the changeover to phonemic spelling with an augmented alphabet is that our present typewriters and printing equipment would have to be junked. Don't worry about it: Every few years most of them are junked anyway, and those which aren't can be modified to add the new symbols. And what of the vast body of literature in conventional spelling? Don't worry about that either: Not many books have a useful life of more than ten years, and even editions of the classics are constantly being replaced. We may read books written one or two hundred years ago, but the editions of them we read were probably published recently. There would be some stress and hardship in the changeover, of course, just as there is now in England with the changeover to a decimal currency, and the forthcoming change in 1972-73 to the Metric System. But that doesn't mean that the change isn't both feasible and worth making.

What should we change to? It should be a system that differs no more from the present alphabet than is necessary to make it truly phonemic. The transition from traditional orthography should be as easy as the transition to it is for children who begin with Pitman's i.t.a. In fact, since there will be some material around in T.O. for a long time, even those brought up with the new system should be able to learn reading in T.O. with ease. We could do a lot worse than simply adopt Pitman's i.t.a. system, since it meets these requirements and is already widely and successfully used. But let us have nothing to do with "simplified spelling" which is neither fish nor fowl; it has neither the virtues claimed for traditional orthography nor the virtues of a linguistically sound phonemic spelling.

Another difficulty mentioned by some of us, including myself, [1] comes from the fact that English-speaking people pronounce our language differently in different parts of the country. Since a phonetic alphabet would represent the sounds of the language as it is spoken, the question arises: Spoken by whom? Whose version of English speech would our phonemic alphabet represent?

Brenda M. Johns [2] listed as "one of the points that may be worrying you," the fact that "People who speak differently will spell differently." Then she asked the question upon whose answer, I feel, the success of our endeavors depends: "Will this really matter? . . . Spelling should not be regarded as fixed and holy. It should be allowed to evolve according to universal changes in pronunciation. . . Don't be pedantic; tolerate the writer's spelling just as you do his speech."

So accustomed are we to the rigid standards laid down by Samuel Johnson and his successors that in proposed spelling reform, we think the same way. We want to replace one rigid standard with another. Not only is it almost impossible to decide what the new standard should be, but by virtue of *being* a standard, it would in time become as impractical and confusing as the one we have now. Once again, the language would gradually evolve and its spelling would not.

What, then, must we change? Our system of spelling, of course. But more important than that, we must change our ATTITUDE about spelling. In fact, if we were to change nothing but that, English spelling would become a lot more sensible all by itself and our alphabeteers could find some other way of amusing themselves.

But would it be practical to just give people a sensible alphabet and let them write as they speak? Wouldn't such tolerance and flexibility on the part of the 3 or 4 hundred million people who speak English lead to chaos? I think not. As Brenda Johns pointed out, these people understand each other's speech, so why shouldn't they understand each other's writing?

But what of the poor lexicographer? How would he cope with it? Well, although Anglo-Saxon and Middle English were spelled as they were spoken, and spelling varied from one author to another, the variations weren't enough to keep present-day students from reading these languages or scholars from compiling dictionaries of them.

Our misgivings vanish when we consider what it is, in modern English pronunciation, that actually varies. English consonants are remarkably stable throughout, the vast range of national and regional dialects. Almost all of the differences are in the pronunciation of vowels. But if you will study the figures that Godfrey Dewey compiled for the frequency with which the various phonemes are used, [3] you will find that the much more stable consonant phonemes make up about two thirds of our language. *Variations in pronunciation are variations in only about one third of our speech*. And, if you are concerned for the lexicographer, just count the pages in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* devoted to words beginning with vowel phonemes, as against the number devoted to words beginning with consonants, and you will see that the latter outnumber the former by six to one.

Let spelling vary! It will and should vary from one part of the English-speaking world to another, and change with time as the language does. I honestly believe that the resulting spelling deviations would be too minor to impede communication at all. The last thing we need is a phonemic Sam Johnson. What needs changing is not just our spelling but our whole conception of what we use an alphabet for. Until we can change that, we will never be able to change anything else. And if we can change it, we may not have to change anything else!

#### References

- [1] "Phonemic Spelling, a Linguistic Dilema," SPB, *vol.* III, #3, October, 1963. See also "Why Johnny Could Read," SPB, vol. III. no. 4, December, 1963.
- [2] "The Key to Better Education," SPB, vol. VII, no. 2, Summer, 1967.
- [3] Godfrey Dewey's findings are summarized in *Speech and Hearing in Communication*, by Harvey Fletcher, pub. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1953. The results of a similar but much smaller study by myself correlate very closely with Dewey's.

# 6. English – for the World, by Ali Fiumedoro

English has been and is steadily progressing more than any other toward being considered the World Language. Some think it has already reached this point. We should take advantage of this fortunate situation. There is nothing more important than world understanding. And for the good of mankind, the advantages of a simplified 'arm of English should be carefully evaluated. With regularity and simplified spelling and construction it would be much easier to learn and to teach. Such a simplified inter- national language could save a great deal of time and trouble. It would facilitate world trade, increase traveling, help eradicate race hatred, make it easier to understand world problems and help maintain order.

Anything that makes it easier for the rest of the world to learn to read will benefit everyone. If we offered them the simplest, most regular language, the peoples of the world all would be willing to put some effort into learning it-to both of our and their mutual benefits.

With such an international language there would be real brotherhood; many jobs would be created and it would be a good step to world progress and understanding.

With means taken for geographical or regional pronunciation and for individual speech peculiarities, it would be unnecessary to have the pronunciation of every word listed in the dictionaries. Words would be self-pronounceable, because they would be spelt phonetically. Gone would be the hesitation a pupil has now when he sees for the first time a new word. This alone would make it so much easier to learn that each pupil could teach another, just as Dr. Frank Laubach has done in more than 100 foreign countries thruout the world. His motto, "Each one teach another" is responsible for the yearning for education of the foreigners who have been contacted by the missionaries.

This idea of English as the world language is not a dream but a possible reality if we all get back of this idea.

We must have a world language. English is linguistically and structurally the easiest to learn. Only its unreliable spelling has been holding it back. What can we do to further this idea?

# 7. Introspection or Retrospection, by Newell W. Tune

It is high time that each alfabeteer (spelling reformer to the uninitiated) indulge in introspection with honest thought and self-examination to see if his true purpose in designing a system of spelling reform was due to:

- 1. An altruistic desire to help future generations of children to learn how to read in an easier, quicker, better way, or
- 2. A selfish desire to acquire fame as the inventor, designer, or promulgator of the world's bestmost. nearly perfect system of spelling reform.

If he decides it is the former, he should now concentrate on the more difficult job of trying to find out how a new system of simplified spelling can be brought into use. How was it done in foreign countries which have modified their spelling? What is necessary to convince those in power of the need for, benefits of, and means of utilizing a better system of orthography? 'How must such a new system be put into use and what part of the government must start the ball arolling? Can it be done without being forced on us by the government? What private organizations have the respect, ability, and desire to accomplish this much needed reform?

Each of us will have different ideas on this question, but many paths are a better way to seeking our goal than reliance on only one or two.

If he is only interested in the second, he will refuse to accept advice on how to improve his brainchild (to the mother duck, her duckling is not ugly, but just perfect), nor accept any other solution to the academic problem of simplifying our spelling to be made by some official commission on spelling, but go merrily on his way tooting his own horn and not cooperating with others in the furtherance of a common goal (his is different) with the result that the goal will never be achieved and the movement for reform will not advance to its hoped for happy eventuality.

In union there is strength – divided we – must fail. Quo vadis?

Join the Simpler Spelling Association, Lake Placid Club, N.Y., or the Simplified Spelling Society, Broadstairs, Kent, England. Here you will find dedicated men.

# 8. Temple Buell College

## **Application and Registration Procedures**

Admission to a workshop is open to anyone who meets the prerequisites for the workshop. Application blanks may be obtained by writing to the Director, Summer Operations, Temple Buell College, Denver, Colorado. After completing the application blank return it, with the \$25.00 application fee to the Director, Summer Operations. Registration will be completed for the applicants. The remainder of the tuition fee and any extra fees must be paid by the first day of the work- shop. These fees may be paid by check or in Room 228 of Treat Hall.

'High School Seniors or Graduates will be accepted. "Graduate Credit Offered.

#### Costs

The tuition fee is \$50.00 per credit hour. A \$25.00 application fee must accompany the application. The fee is applied to the tuition, but is not refundable. The tuition fee is usually the only academic cost, exclusive of books and materials except for several workshops that may include fees covering special items.

Room and board are available for \$39/week for single occupancy and \$35/week for double occupancy and 21 meals per week (weekend meals included). The rates without weekend meals (15 meals per week) are \$34/week for single occupancy and \$30/week for double occupancy.

## May 17 – May 28

## **Behavioral Science Workshops**

Ed 230 S Kindergarten Education – Dr. Elayne Donahue

The planning and evaluation of daily and weekly programs for the development and education of young children, including daily field experience in a kindergarten classroom. Prerequisite: American Public Schools and/or Educational Psychology. Register by May 10.

## *P 352 S Sex-type Behavior* – Dr. James Polt

An examination of social behaviors characteristic of the male and female at different phylogenetic levels with emphasis on the evolutionary and adaptive aspects of these behaviors.

## **Fine Arts Workshops**

A 320 S Art and Science - Mr. Ed Levine

An examination of the concept of the "two cultures", and the relationships between the process and method of science with that of the arts. To Investigate the inter-relationships between the two areas.

## A 310 S \*Color – Mrs. Elizabeth Schobertein

A studio course designed to extend the student's ability to deal with color through intensive work with it. Prerequisite: 6 hours of art or consent of instructor.

## **August 9 – 21.**

Ed 350 S \*\*Spelling Reform: Its Promise for Reading Instruction – Dr. Helen Bonnema Consideration of need for and proposals to change traditional English orthography to a system more consistent in representing phonemic contrasts. Consideration of requirements for a revised system, and means for introducing and adopting it.

## **Fine Arts Workshop**

A 138 S \*The Carved Object – Mr. Gary Dwyer An introduction to the process of design and execution of carved sculpture in all available media.

# **August 16 – 28**

## **Behavioral Science Workshop**

An 320 S Man in the City – Dr. James Patterson

An analysis of the theory, method and problems in contemporary urban affairs. Emphasis is on the United States and Denver.

## **Fine Arts Workshops**

Th 240 S A Backstage Production - Mr. David Buzza

A practical workshop involving the actual application of techniques used in building, painting, lighting, propping, and costuming a stage production. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

Th 316 S \*Cinema As Art – Mr. Ed Levine

An examination of the cinema as an art form, concentrating on the aesthetic experience of the film. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

M 220 S Period Styles of Play Production – Mr. Donald Malmgren

A theoretical and practical workshop focusing on one play in its historical setting for the purpose of recreating the play on stage in a manner that is true to the period. Permission of instructor.

A 330 S \*Silk Screen – Mrs. Elizabeth Schoberiein

A studio course dealing with all aspects of silk screening. Prerequisite: 6 hrs. of art or permission of instructor.

# **Natural Science Workshop**

A 359 S Mathematics in Western Culture - Mr. Philip Rose

An analysi of the role of mathematics as a cultural force In Western Civilization, and its influence on 20th century life and thought.

An application form was included on page 19.

[Spelling Progress Bulletin Spring 1971 p20 in the printed version] Advertisement. [The diacritics are more like single and double quotes than acute accents and umlauts.]

# 9. World Language: Sistemïzd Ënglish Boston, Ma.

Aligrams: a book everybody should have and will enjoy. \$1.

## **EXAMPLES**

By ALI FIUMEDORO (in Sistemizd Ënglish)

Have a good reason Háv ä gud rëson for all that you do. Háv ä gud rëson for ol thát iü dü.

You may win or lose
by the words you use.

Iü mä win or lüz
bï thú wrdz iü iüz.

Either dress right, Ëthr dres rït, or stay out of sight. Ëthr dres rït, or stä úwt ov sït.

The louder the mouth, Thú lawdr thú múwth, the smaller the brain. Thú smolr thú brän.