

Drop your foreign accent

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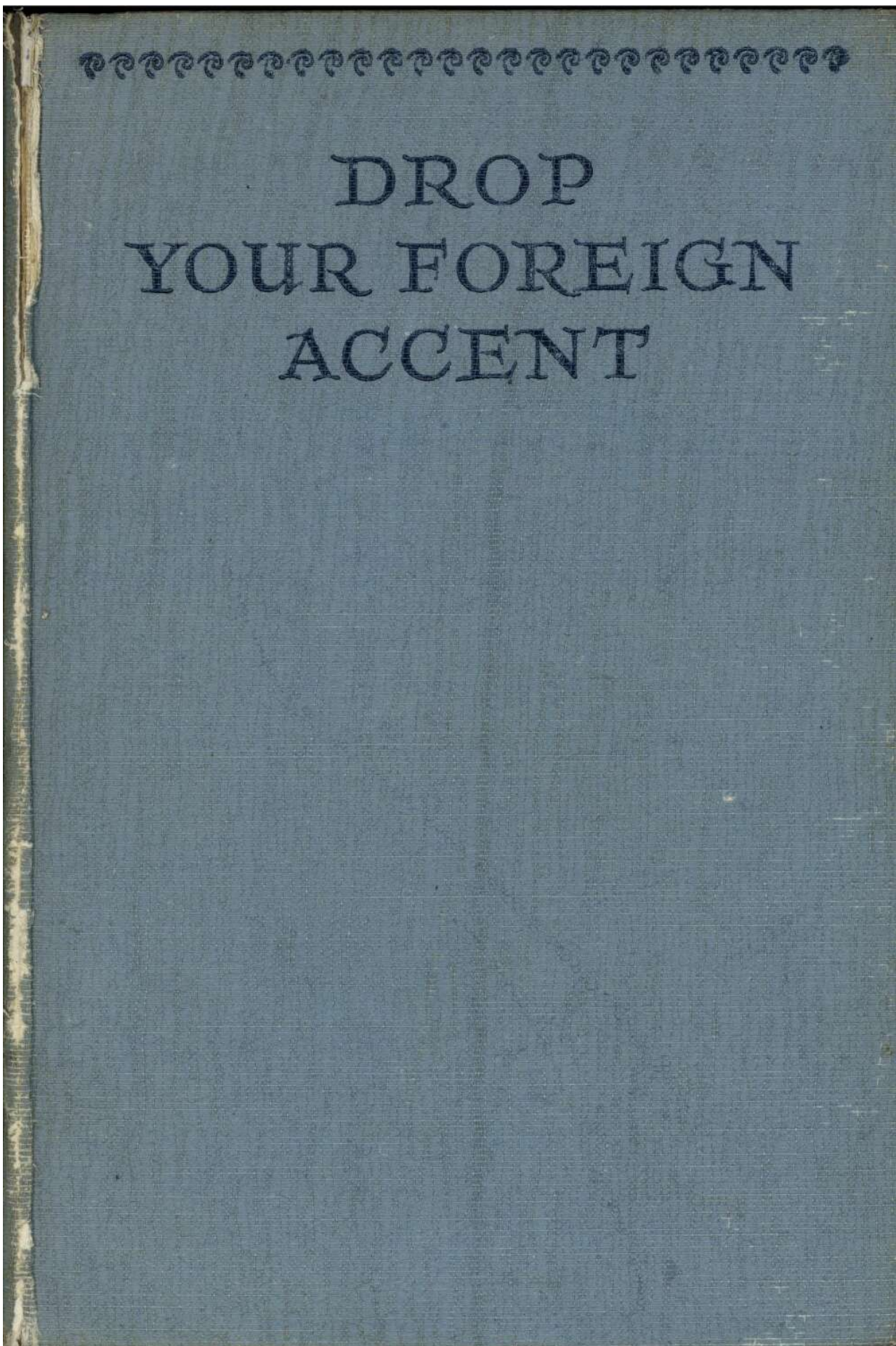
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Drop your foreign accent



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**Drop Your
Foreign Accent**

by

Gerard N. Trenité

**London
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P R E F A C E

Another book on English sounds? Where is the studious Oliver, asking for some more? Indeed, the production of a new one can only be justified by its being a *novel* one. A glance at the following pages may suffice to show the writer's attempt to supply a novelty. This is not a guide. It is an exercise-book. It is less like a drill-master, who teaches you how to perform your feats, than like a set of gymnastic apparatus on which you have to perform them yourself—vocal gymnastics. I have indeed given a few indispensable directions, sufficient, I think, for those who do not want any exhaustive, scientific treatment of the subject, but the very essence of this book lies in the exercises. If these pages could speak, they would not say "learn!" but "do!"

The importance of a pronunciation free from foreign accent should not be underrated. Your most distinguished speaker, wonderful though his fluency may be, correct his grammar and admirable his choice of words, is *the* awkward man as long as he has not dropped his foreign accent. He either irritates, or makes himself the butt of the company, nay, he is as often as not misunderstood and does not know why.

He irritates. There is a distinct element of courtesy in the foreigner's correct pronunciation—the thought: I have deemed it worth my while to grapple with the difficulties of your language, till I have overcome them. This pleases as much as slovenly pronunciation displeases. It is an open letter of recommendation, like a clear handwriting, a neat dress or a handsome face.

He is misunderstood and does not know the cause. For his faults may be ever so slight. A scarcely audible buzz omitted where it should be heard, uttered where it should not be, may render his most beautiful phrases unintelligible. He means *bad* and says *bat*—his pungent remark is lost upon his hearer. His placing of the tongue tip a fraction of an inch too far back may have a similarly disastrous effect. He wants to talk of *something* and his hearer is convinced that he is speaking of a few persons who are chanting. He wishes to intimate that he has concealed the poor fugitive and says, on the contrary, that he has given him a sound thrashing (p. 18). "What do you think of her age?" asked, or rather tried to ask a charming foreign young lady, when the guest had left. "Quite right," answered the English hostess, "she does not drop it" (p. 24). Thus you must not be surprised, Madame, when, following the directions of the shopwalker at your request for metal finger-caps, you arrive at the department of musical instruments (p. 50), not to mention the shower of abuse you may expect when you meant to inquire after a wine-merchant's cellar (p. 90).

On the other hand, if you have not practised the nice distinctions of sounds yourself and consequently do not hear them in others, you may fail to understand the person who observes them. If, young man, the kind lady at the head of the table asks you: "Is your celery as you like it?" you may perhaps mutter something about its being quite unsatisfactory, referring to your "screw," simply because you hear no difference in the sounds of *man* and *men* (p. 61).

When you have solved these problems, you will not hesitate to admit the necessity of "vocal gymnastics."

In Appendix III I offer the reader a small collection of phonetical paradoxes. I gave it the form of a "poem," so that rhyme and rhythm might have a soothing effect on the bewildered learner, and lead him into the right path, the former in many cases indicating sound, the latter stress. Thus *even—Stephen* (p. 117), *senator—spectator* (p. 112).

The last line contains an advice; my advice is—don't take it.

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DIRECTIONS

1. Do your exercises in a standing position, upright, with head proudly held, chest forward, your book lying on a tall music-stand in front of you. Sitting at a table with bent head and compressed lungs, you lose the thorough command of your speech-organs.

2. Control your breathing. Fill your lungs down to the bottom. Do not let any breath escape uselessly, that is, do not puff out air-stream without speech-sound.

3. Speak in a loud, clear voice. This does not mean screaming or straining, which should be carefully avoided. Keep your natural note, but send the air straight and boldly through your mouth.

4. Exaggerate. Form your sounds so distinctly as would make you ridiculous in society. In rapid colloquial conversation you are bound to tone down your extravagant sounds and the result will be clearness and distinction.

5. Use your hand-glass freely, when necessary. E.g. practising *th* (p. 55), watch your mouth, and see if the tongue tip is plainly visible between the teeth. Smith's thrift: *Smi*—out with it, and back again for the *s*, quickly out again for the *th* of *thrift*. Watch your lips pronouncing English *sh*, French *ch* and German *sch*. In *sh* see that they are left in their natural position, flat; in *ch* and *sch* you observe some rounding of the lips, protruding (pouting). See the difference in *shoe*, *chou* and *Schuh*.

6. Separate diphthongs. E.g. *ou*, a compound of *ah* and *oo*. First pronounce the parts with a little pause between them: *ah . . . oot*, next say *ahoo*, without a

pause, but still as a distinct "two-sound," and finally melted together into one sound as it were.

7. Learn some rhymes by heart. If I caused the blood in my poetic vein to flow rather profusely, it was not the Muse who prompted me, but my experience as a teacher. Firstly, rhythm and rhyme may act as fly-wheels, strengthening and equalising the movement of the vocal organs. Secondly, the poetical form will enable you to do an exercise without your book, by memory. Now, having chosen those which contain your special stumbling-blocks, you may conveniently practise them during a lonely walk, sitting all by yourself in a railway carriage, etc.

A general remark to wind up with. When you have really dropped your foreign or other objectionable accent, don't be *too* correct in "undress" conversation. I won't blame you very much for saying once in a while colloquially *ast*, *lechuno*, *choosdy*, *neycher*, *eysher*, meaning *asked*, *let you know*, *Tuesday*, *nature*, *Asia*. "What with *teacher*, *creature* and *beat you* the Superman will have more rimes to Nietzsche than he will really want," says Bridges in his most amusing Tract. Why, my young dandy, I will even forgive your making *sure* sound like the surname of G. B., but if you say *somesing*, *goot*, *dat* or *fery vell*—I'll beecher!

DROP YOUR FOREIGN ACCENT

CHAPTER I

VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS

(If necessary, study Chapter III first)

The first stumbling-block is the pronunciation of final voiced consonants, *b, d, v, z, g*. They are called *voiced* from the "murmur" which is heard, even when they are whispered; the letters *p, t, f, s, ch, k*, formed in the same place, in the same manner, produce no "voice" in the phonetical sense of the word. Whisper, loud, as in a stage "aside," *s—z, s—z*, several times, and you will hear the difference; what is more, you will *feel* it by placing your finger on your Adam's apple: when whispering *z*, etc., you will feel the vibration of the vocal chords. Do the same with the other pairs. Now say:

f—v

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
1. <i>Staff</i>	starve		safe	save
<i>waif</i>	wave		surf	serve
<i>fife</i>	five		belief	believe
<i>luff</i>	love		calf	carve
<i>scurf</i>	curve		caitiff	native

Voiced

2. Have, slave, eve, give, valve, solve, above, glove, to weave, move, active, accusative, alive.

s—z

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
Miss	is		cease	sees
hiss	his		niece	knees
ass	as		police	please
gas	has		mouse	bows
lace	lays		sauce	saws
pace	pays		horse	hawse
place	plays		gorse	gauze
close	close		purse	purrs
use	use		hearse	hers
loose	lose		course	cause
since	sins		bus	buzz
goose	ooze		false	falls
deuce	dews		wince	wins
ice	eyes		pence	pens
dose	does		dunce	duns
dice	dies		lease	leas
advice	advise		once	ones

Voiced

3. **Is, was, has, stays, gaze, sneeze, knees, keys, apologize, flies, doze, owes, paws, flees, annoys, amuse, mews, noise, boys, size, wise, lies, ooze, whose, pews, furze, stirs, nose, shows, cause, saws, pulls, calls, tells, fills, kneels, begins, means, needles, pins, goes, shoes.**

Two murmurs in one word

4. **Houses, noises, seizes, causes, closes, loses, uses, amuses, revises, buzzes, freezes, scissors.**

Voiced and voiceless in one word or group

5. **He misses, Mrs., he guesses, he leases, pieces,**

expenses, fences, else's, prices, slices, places, 'busses, he expresses, glasses, horses, my house is, this is.

Possess, he calls us, his ass, knows us, sees us.

Voiced and voiceless alternately

6. This is his house. Is this his house? This house is his. Grace plays; please, Grace, cease. Miss Rose teases Grace. Mrs. Ross has got six pens of sixpence. His nice eyes. He of course refuses ice because his voice is coarse. This house and these houses. John's horse prances and loses his hoofs. Crusoe misses his horses and his glasses. I lose the use of loose u's. The deuce of clubs and the ace of diamonds. The vice of lies is worse: he errs. The cries of mice pierce my ears crosswise. Bert's words of peace appease the serf's nerves. Ass's head.

p—b

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
7. Cap	cab		mop	mob
slap	slab		sop	sob
tap	tab		cup	cub
nip	nib		pu p	pub
hop	hob		su p	sub

Voiced

8. Stab, ebb, web, fib, nib, Bob, job, knob, snob, globe, tube, bulb, barb, verb, superb, curb.

t—d

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
9. Fat	fad		sweet	Swede
sat	sad		oat	owed

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
<i>set</i>	said		<i>float</i>	flowed
<i>let</i>	lead		<i>mute</i>	mewed
<i>hit</i>	hid		<i>nought</i>	gnawed
<i>slit</i>	slid		<i>caught</i>	chord
<i>bet</i>	bed		<i>sort</i>	sword
<i>debt</i>	dead		<i>port</i>	poured
<i>not</i>	nod		<i>bought</i>	board
<i>pot</i>	pod		<i>lout</i>	loud
<i>but</i>	bud		<i>cart</i>	card
<i>eight</i>	aid		<i>heart</i>	hard
<i>wait</i>	weighed		<i>pert</i>	purred
<i>mate</i>	made		<i>hurt</i>	heard
<i>state</i>	stayed		<i>built</i>	build
<i>sight</i>	side		<i>sent</i>	send
<i>height</i>	hide		<i>mount</i>	mound
<i>seat</i>	seed		<i>pint</i>	pined

Voiced

10. Mud, lad, bird, sold, filled, mood, seemed, find, stand, had, did, should, would, could, aimed.

V—Z

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>
II.	<i>Proof-s</i>	proves		<i>life's</i>	lives
	<i>luff-s</i>	loves		<i>chafes</i>	shaves
	<i>grief-s</i>	grieves		<i>serfs</i>	serves
	<i>waif-s</i>	waves		<i>half-sovereign</i>	halves
	<i>snuff-s</i>	doves		<i>the leaf sank</i>	leaves
	<i>dwarf-s</i>	wharves		<i>my wife sang</i>	wives
	<i>hoof-s</i>	behoves		<i>the calf stood</i>	calves

b—z

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>
12.	<i>Cap-s</i>	cab-s		<i>chirp-s</i>	verb-s
	<i>step-s</i>	web-s		<i>cup-s</i>	cub-s
	<i>tip-s</i>	fib-s		<i>pipes</i>	bribes
	<i>cop-se</i>	job-s		<i>cofes</i>	globes
	<i>harp-s</i>	harb-s		<i>dupes</i>	tubes

d—z

13.	<i>Cat-s</i>	cad-s		<i>boat-s</i>	bode-s
	<i>sit-s</i>	lid-s		<i>clout-s</i>	cloud-s
	<i>set-s</i>	head-s		<i>sort-s</i>	sword-s
	<i>butt-s</i>	bud-s		<i>cart-s</i>	card-s
	<i>wait-s</i>	wade-s		<i>scent-s</i>	send-s
	<i>height-s</i>	hide-s		<i>mount-s</i>	mound-s
	<i>sight-s</i>	side-s		<i>knot-s</i>	nod-s

v—d

14.	<i>Lift</i>	lived		<i>laughed</i>	carved
	<i>luffed</i>	loved		<i>chafed</i>	shaved
	<i>hoofed</i>	behoved		<i>turfed</i>	served

b—d

15.	<i>Stopped</i>	sobbed		<i>hoped</i>	robed
	<i>tipped</i>	cribbed		<i>wept</i>	webbed
	<i>supped</i>	snubbed		<i>nipped</i>	nibbed
	<i>wiped</i>	described		<i>lopped</i>	lobbed

z—d

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Two murmurs</i>
16.	<i>Ceased</i>	seized		<i>post</i>	posed
	<i>coursed</i>	caused		<i>bust</i>	buzzed
	<i>whist</i>	whizzed		<i>maced</i>	mazed
	<i>priced</i>	prized		<i>raced</i>	raised

b in the Middle

17. Cabman, lobster, curbstone, clubhouse, bulb grower, crabfish, abdicate, abnormal, absent, absolute, absurd, observe, obvious, obstacle, obtain, obstruct, submit, subdue, subtract, submarine, substantive, jobmaster, Hobhouse, Webster.

Double b

18. Cobweb, hubbub, suburb, hobnob.

d in the Middle

19. Leadmine, sandwich, bridegroom, sidelong, treadmill, woodwork, maudlin, bedroom, breadknife, hardly, wardrobe, food fish, medley, madman, hardware, loudly, cloudless, made up, mind you, instead of, old age, hard luck.

20. Broadway, Wildney, Cadbury, Aldwich, Dudley, Sydney, Radcliffe, Tweedmouth, Hyde Park, Medway, Edwin, Hudson.

Double d

21. Roadside, cardboard, redwood, bandstand, bedstead, childhood, landlord, worldwide, widespread, blood feud.

22. Rudyard, Edward, Breadford, Roundhead, Scotland Yard.

d near t

23. Ludgate, Dreadnought, midnight, bloodshot, woodcut, deadbeat, red hot, flood-gate, head light, hard court, good shot.

24. Spithead, footpad, cartload, shorthand, outward, night-bird, sweetbread.

The following exercise is an optical deception: final made into initial to facilitate voiced pronunciation. Instead of *find out* you are tempted to say *fint out*, but you have no trouble in saying *fine doubt*. Read *find out* as if it were written *fin dout*. This is easy enough. Thus, to please the ear, lead your mouth by the nose!

	<i>Read:</i>	<i>as:</i>		<i>Read:</i>	<i>as:</i>
25. Did I	di	di	wide open	wi	dopen
proud of	prou	dof	laid up	lai	dup
I heard all	I hear	dall	sandwich	san	dwich
fond of	fon	dof	wild oats	wil	doats
hoodwink	hoo	dwink	billiard room	billiar	droom

26. Rea dalou dwilly! (*Read aloud, Willy!*) How goo do vyou! (*How good of you!*) Mau di za zol da zi. (*Maud is as old as I.*) Do you min dour smoking? (*Do you mind our smoking?*) I stan din nee do vit, indee di do. (*I stand in need of it, indeed I do.*) He die do vol da geon the thir do vaugust. (*He died of old age on the third of August.*) I playe dinstea do ve dwar deaston. (*I played instead of Edward Easton.*)

A frien din nee di za frien dindee di think. (*A friend in need is a friend indeed, I think.*)
Coul dyou ri don this har droa damy? (*Could you ride on this hard road, Amy?*)
Frightene dan alarme di calle dalfre dan dwilliam.
(*Frightened and alarmed I called Alfred and William.*)
Woul dyou be kin denough to sen dus some goo dol dwine?
(*Would you be kind enough to send us some good old wine?*)
Wa zit ma din Englan dor wa zit ma din Germany? (*Was it made in England or was it made in Germany?*)

In this exercise you must keep the murmur sounding like a continuous bass note. Do you know the "Dance of Sylphs" in Berlioz's *Faust*? The low *d* of the 'cellos, ninety bars at a stretch? Well, then, set the fly-wheel going!

27. Bad, odd lords, kind, good, sad wives
Lose in waves of ponds hard lives.
Leaves of daisies, buds of posies,
Words of Lizzy's, friends of Rose's,
Powdered heads, weird wizards' eyes,
Mob-mind leads renowned allies.
Bob heaved gladly, nodded sadly,
Hardly kindly, wounded badly,
Fred reads loud of Bob's red cabs,
Cubs, wolves, lobsters, cods, toads, crabs.
Bradford rides round Leeds towards Sydney,
Cobwebs covered pods, loaves, kidney,
Treadmills, leadmines, handmade, sawed,
Midnight goodwives, Forbes abhorred.
Thieves weighed large, smooth birds' heads, hoarded,
Lads in booths with carved knives lauded.

ch—g

a.—INITIAL

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
28.	<i>Chin</i>	gin		<i>chain</i>	Jane
	<i>chest</i>	jest		<i>char</i>	jar
	<i>chop</i>	job		<i>chill</i>	gill
	<i>chump</i>	jump		<i>chew</i>	jew
	<i>cheer</i>	jeer		<i>choice</i>	joys
	<i>choke</i>	joke		<i>churn</i>	journey

Voiceless

29. *Charles and Richard, Rachel's chum,
Chose to chew choice chewing-gum,
Chop a chicken! Charles chimes in,
Chuckling Chinaman's cheek and chin.*

Voiced

30. **Just as Jane was jumping, John enjoyed his jam.
Justice, Gypsy, German, gaoler, gesture, June.
Joe was regent, blue-jay, jolly gentlemen.
Job, Elijah, Jacob, gems and jewels joined.**

31. **Juliet, Judith, Joe and Johnny,
Judge of Jim's gymnastics, jump.
Jelly jar and genuine ginger,
Gentle, general, jobbing jade.**

Voiced and voiceless alternately

32. *Charley chose a jar of ginger,
Grudging Rachel's jolly cheer;
Jump on chairs, by Jove, you children,
Chinks in churches, judges jeer.*

33. Cheaper **j**elly, *ch*ocolate, **j**ujube,
 Cheek by **j**owl **J**ohn's *ch*ildren *ch*oke;
 Reach the **j**ug to searching *ver*gers,
 Jingle *watch-ch*ains, *ch*aff and **j**oke.
John, *ch*allenge **J**ane, *R*ichard's *ch*anging *ch*ild,
Jump, *ch*arger, **j**ump! **J**ohn, *ch*ief justice smiled.

b.—FINAL

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
34.	<i>H</i>	age		<i>larch</i>	large
	<i>etch</i>	edge		<i>search</i>	surge
	<i>leech</i>	liege		<i>beseech</i>	besiege
	<i>match</i>	Madge		<i>breeches</i>	bridges

Voiceless

35. *P*each, *c*oach, *w*itch, *f*inch, *m*arch, *c*ouch, *t*ouch,
*s*natch.

Voiced

36. *B*andage, *k*nowledge, *d*odge, *s*mudge, *b*esiege,
*s*ponge, *e*merge.

With two murmurs

37. **A**ged, **u**rged, **p**lun**g**ed, **r**evenged, **r**anged, **b**ulged,
lodged, **p**led**g**ed, **e**nrag**ed**, **s**ing**ed**, **ch**arg**ed**, **ch**ang**ed**,
challeng**ed**.

c.—MIXED

38. Scrooge arranges ledgers. General-major, encourage James and George to engage lodgings in a huge cottage of a German manager. Greenwich and Harwich are large villages. Judge Geoffrey Rudge's privileged junior

clerk **Hodge**, of **Dulwich**, grudgingly mortgaged his grange.
Ajax, the avenging belligerent of the Trojan legend.

39. **Wedgwood**, **Hydrogen**. **Plagiarism**. The passengers
 changed carriages. Damaged luggage. The average re-
 vengeful stranger judged disparagingly of the college
 of **Cambridge**.

40. **Injuring**, **conjuring**, **badgering**, **judge**,
Justly, **revenging**, **John Johnson**, **just grudge**.
Pillaging villages, **damaging** savages,
Raging in **Harwich** and **Dulwich** he ravages,
Drudging and **judging** large hedges attinged,
Pages' advantages **plunging** infringed.

41. **Jovial Jack** and **Gill**, **juggling** **adjudge**,
Gently jest **joking** in **June**, **George**, and **budge**,
Jingle, **Jim**, **gingerly**, **jockey**, **jump joggling** and
juggling **enjoy**,
Midges and **marriages**, **bridges** and **carriage** in
village employ,
Savages **ravage** in **lodgings** and **hedges**,
Jane **jilted** **Geoffrey**, **Jim**, **Jolly Jack** **pledges**.

g—k

a.—INITIAL

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
42. Coat	goat		come	gum
cot	got		card	guard
Kate	gate		cap	gap

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
coal	g oal		cash	g ash
curl	g irl		clamour	g lamour
cold	g old		killed	g uild
could	g ood		class	g lass
coast	g host		clue	g lue
came	g ame		cage	g auge
clean	g lean		cork	g awk

Voiced

43. **G**able, **g**ain, **g**ale, **g**arden, **g**as, **g**oose, **g**et, **g**ill, **g**imlet.

b.—FINAL

	<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>		<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
44.	<i>Back</i>	b ag		<i>lack</i>	l ag
	<i>wick</i>	w ig		<i>hock</i>	h og
	<i>duck</i>	d ug		<i>pick</i>	p ig
	<i>lock</i>	l og		<i>rack</i>	r ag
	<i>pluck</i>	p lug		<i>buck</i>	b ug
	<i>leak</i>	l eague		<i>brick</i>	b rig
	<i>crack</i>	c rag		<i>beck</i>	b eg

Voiced

45. **S**tag, **f**ag, **m**ug, **h**ug, **i**ntrigue, **r**ug, **r**ogue, **p**lague, **s**nug.

Voiced and voiceless alternately

46. **C**argo, **cl**angour, **c**logg**y**, **c**ongress, **c**oast**g**uard, **C**olgate. **G**ate-keeper, **g**race-cup, **g**un-cotton, **g**ull-catcher, **g**herkin.

c.—MIXED

47. Guy's girl was great at games,
 And got into a gig,
 Her legs in rugs and rags,
 She wore a ghastly wig.
 The guards and other rogues,
 They plagued her, begged to hug;
 Now in the grassy ground
 Her gloomy grave is dug.
 Guy's fags bagged his big mugs,
 And eggs, with base intrigue,
 The smugglers tugged his brigs,
 And gagged the pig-legged league.

CHAPTER II

L

This letter represents three sounds¹

- (a) Clear, after breath consonants, *clip* (symbol l).
- (b) Semi-dark, initial or between vowels, *like, willing* (symbol l).
- (c) Dark, final or before voiced consonants, *mil, building* (symbol l).

Place the tip of the tongue against the upper gums and raise the front for clear l, the back for dark l. Let the breath escape at one or at both sides. (Lateral consonant).

¹ This is my personal view. Some phoneticians may object. Those who disagree may use the following exercises as general exercises, disregarding the division.

	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Semi-dark</i>	<i>Dark</i>	
48.	spleen	wheeler	wheel,	wield
	flee	kneeling	kneel,	kneels
	claim	sailor	sail,	sailed
	plain	tailor	tail,	tales
	flake	paling	pale,	pails
	clip	killing	bill,	killed
	flint	silly	sill,	sills
	plinth	Willy	will,	wills
	plume	foolish	fool,	fooled
	clue	duly	school,	schools
	flue	coolly	cool,	cooled

Clear

49. Flip, pluckily fling, fling plain slit slippers,
Please, clean the floor, Flip, clean the clippers.

Semi-dark

50. Let Leonard love Liz, willy-nilly,
Love's labour's lost, o silly Willy!

Dark

51. All's well! old girl, sell silver bells,
Bold Bill tells tales, wild tales Bill tells.

Mixed

52. Lord Clifford spells, and seldom fails,
Unwieldy volumes, filled with tales.

The murmur sounds strongest when **l** follows p, b, t, d, k, g: *couple, able, settle, needle, pickle, struggle*. **l**, being the chief sound in this case, is called "syllabic **l**."

53. Table, pebble, nibble, hobble, bubble, feeble, Bible, ramble, tremble, thimble, humble, noble, marble, double, treacle, spectacle, chronicle, uncle, circle, muscle, cycle, cradle, saddle, riddle, puddle, needle, candle, spindle, fondle, bundle, baffle, trifle, eagle, giggle, goggle, struggle, angle, single, gurgle, bugle.

The same holds good for the endings *-al, -el, -ol*; *metal* sounds like *mettle*, *idol* like *idle*, etc.

54. Nasal, vocal, legal, rival, mortal, naval, equal, jackal, capital, critical, musical, poetical, physical, political, municipal. Funnel, tunnel, gunwale, angel, satchel, bushel, flannel, chapel, barrel, squirrel, gravel, level, marvel, jewel, vowel. Symbol, carol, gambol, pistol, idol.

55. Beadles higgle,
 Straggle, giggle,
 Fondle marble articles;
 Eagles tumble,
 Uncles fumble,
 Nibble brittle particles.
 Idle mortals handle skittles,
 Able scoundrels smuggle victuals.

CHAPTER III

S

Do you pronounce the *s* clearly? There is a common defect, called "lispings." It consists in pushing the tongue tip too

far forward in forming the sibilant. The result is a sound which is very much like *th*. For *s* the tongue should form a shallow little channel, the point being lifted up so as nearly to touch the hard palate—*not the teeth*. Direct the breath straight, hiss sharply and don't allow any breath to spread:

56. Yesss, thiss, nurssse, housse, loosse, ceasse, horsse, asside, alssso, the usse, the excusse, promisse, casse, masson, disssappear, disssobedient, dessolate, comparisson, crussade, curiossity, generossity, usselessnesss.

57. Asks, discs, desks, tusks, gasps, wasps, lisps, nests, waists, lists, ghosts, feasts, masts, basks, casks, flasks, masks, tasks, risks, obelisks, husks, rusks, asps, clasps, grasps, suggests, chests, jests, pests, rests, crests, forests, tests, protests, guests, requests, methodists, materialists, antagonists, wrists, assists, dramatists, artists, exists, posts, trusts, thrusts, coasts, joists, wastes, roasts, lasts.

58. Sincere sorrow, a sarcastic smile, salicylic acid, a son of the soil, a snail's pace, a severe sentence, a serial story, the senior service, the smart set, the seven sages, Somerset House.

59. A sop to Cerberus. Simson seeks the sunny side. Skilful skaters skim the ice. For conscience' sake Sam sold the sad stuff at a sacrifice. The self-satisfied censor saw the stars. Sapped by excess Solomon sipped a Scotch and soda. Sally made a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Sweat and be saved, says a statesman.

Another mistake is the substitution of *sh* for *s* before *p* and *t*, which is usual in German, *schpott*, *schteht*. Foreigners, especially Germans, often find great difficulty in forming this sound correctly, saying *shpot*, *shtate*. What with this and a voiceless *d* truthful Hans or Gretchen may be wont to call a spade a schpate!

The best way to overcome it seems first to insert an intermediate sound, and then to repeat the word, dropping the intermediate: *se-pot*, *spot*, *se-tate*, *state*.

60. Support	sport	Saturn	stern
supper	spur	setter	stir
supply	splice	sitting	sting
sepoy	spoil	suppose	spoke
separate	spirit	settee	steam

61. Shakespeare. She stoops. Shaving-stick. Short story.
I shall stop. Slipshod. Shop-steward.

62. Spick and span. Stop at Springfield Station. Stand still, sturdy stranger. The stiff, stupid, stingy spinster spoke spitefully. Spare the stick and spoil the student.

63. Strong, stout, stalwart starter, stay;
Spurn a starving, splotchy stray.
Stepping, straining,
Stumbling, spraining,
Spare my splendid stones, stop staining,
Sparsit split my sparkling spray.

Read each of these exercises at least three times aloud; very slowly at first, then in the ordinary tempo of collo-

quial speech, and finally as fast as you can manage without stumbling.

64. Sound your s's crisply, hiss 'em,
 Fix lax muscles, fast but lissom,
 S is voiceless: uselessness,
 Cease from lisping—s is s!
65. Simson Smibe, the staunchest scribe,
 Versed in artists' jests and jibe,
 Scribbles, for this simple reason:
 It's just now the silly season.
66. Sesame, Sesame,
 Studding-sails soil some Saxon sea.
 Slashed sleeve, store-room; smash Smike's jorum,
 Snooker, sneer at snip-snap-snorum.
 Sesame, Sesame,
 Snuffer, snatch a snickersnee.
67. This vixen, minx, brusque testatrix
 Lisps, whisks moist stamps from chests or pyx,
 Mistrusts, tests, pastes,
 Waxed lax, rests, wastes,
 Roasts rusks, toasts, tastes,
 Takes risks, twists, bastes,
 Pressed, hoaxed, vexed, coaxed, sticks in a fix.
68. Sam, a saucy assassin and smoker,
 Starts, hoists, thrusts, lisps, thirsts, boasts as a
 stoker,

Gasps and grasps amidst casks, +
Amidst masts for vast flasks,
Sag to south-side, hist! Sam seems a soaker.

Compare the exercises on pp. 50 and 51.

CHAPTER IV

SH

Sh does not sound like French *ch* or German *sch*, formed by a broad stream of breath passing between the teeth over a rather deep channel made by the tongue, through rounded lips. In *sh* the channel is shallow, and the lips are not rounded (protruding, pouting), but flat, in their natural position, so that *sh* approaches *s*. Compare E. *shoe*, F. *chou* and G. *Schuh*. This sound, voiced: *zh*, only occurs in the middle of English words, like *leisure* and in loan words, like *rouge*. Observe that E. *zh* is not the same as F. *j*, and compare, apart from other differences in the sounds of these words: F. *ai-je*—E. *azure*, F. *les jeux*—E. *leisure*.

<i>French</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>English</i>
69. <i>Chiff</i>	sheaf	<i>schief</i>	sheaf
<i>choc</i>	shock	<i>Schock</i>	shock
<i>chou</i>	shoe	<i>Schuh</i>	shoe
<i>Chine</i>	sheen	<i>schien</i>	sheen
<i>chaud</i>	show	<i>schon</i>	shown
<i>chair</i>	share	<i>Schein</i>	shine

<i>French</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>chape</i>	sharp	<i>schaut</i>	shout
<i>chose</i>	shows	<i>Schott</i>	shot
<i>chaque</i>	shark	<i>Schutt</i>	shoot
<i>chez</i>	shay	<i>Schelfe</i>	shelf
70. <i>Bouche</i>	bush	<i>Busch</i>	bush
<i>flèche</i>	flesh	<i>Flesche</i>	flesh
<i>mâche</i>	marsh	<i>Liesch</i>	leash
<i>galoche</i>	galosh	<i>englisch</i>	English

VOICELESS

(a) *Initial*

71. Shabby, shake, shadow, shave, share, shawl, shell, shilling, sherry, sheep, shop, shot, shut.

Sure, sugar.

Champagne, chamois, chandelier, chivalrous, chauffeur, charlatan, Charlotte.

72. Shelley, shun chagrin, shake chaises.

She showed shivering Shakespeare shades,
Shed champagne, shout shallow phrases,
Shear shy sheep, shift sharp charades.

(b) *Medial*

73. Motion, translation, mention, Titian.

Version, aversion, excursion, extension, pension, mansion.

Suspicion, coercion.

Fashion, cushion.

Discussion, permission, impression.

Russia, Asia, Persia, nausea.

Patient, transient, ancient.

Partial, social, special, initial, sensual, superficial, issue, censure.

Anxious, precious, delicious, gracious, conscious, superstitious.

Musician, magician, physician, optician.

Machine, marchioness.

Conscience. Nasturtium. Fuchsia.

(c) *Final*

74. Cash, squash, flesh, dish, bush, bosh, flush, English, Welsh, Irish, extinguish, greenish, bluish.

French, punch, lunch, finch.

Moustache, avalanche, Blanche.

Voiced

75. Transition.

Confusion, evasion, decision, occasion, collision.

Casual, visual.

Pleasure, measure, treasure, leisure, erasure.

Rouge, mirage, garage, Bruges.

CHAPTER V

R

The *r* is only pronounced as a consonant before a vowel: *red*, for all. When no vowel follows, it is either silent: *art*, or vocalized: *more*. That is, it dulls down to a mere voice-murmur, the sound you utter when hesitating in

your speech: "This man . . . er . . . what's his name . . . er . . . etc."¹

In Scotland the *r* is always pronounced.

Silent and vocalized r

76. Err, sir, fur, her, stir, were, purr, myrrh. Figure, pleasure, measure, signature, lecture, culture, adventure, torture, pasture, gesture, mixture, nature.

77. Her nurse deserves her earnings for her work. The first girl hurt her nerves. Burns's early works were the worst in the world. Turner burnt the fern. Learn words of mercy, stern Sir Herbert Gurney.

78. Bertie heard her hurdy-gurdy,
The thirty-first he learned or heard;
Sir, he blurted, hurt and wordy,
Curly work-girls turned and stirred.
Sturdy, murdered churls were burly,
Curse the earth, Gurth, serve the world.
Wordsworth errs, sir, hers were surly,
Dirty curs, her nurse unfurled.

This sound is represented in various ways, *ar*, *er*, *ir*, etc.

79. Beggar, collar; September, fender; sir, elixir; Cheshire, Devonshire; sailor, tailor; augur, murmur; pleasure, future; labour, honour; centre, acre; martyr, zephyr; perturber.

¹ This sign, *er*, for the hesitating sound, clearly shows that the *r* followed by no vowel, may be written, but must not be pronounced. Whoever, hesitating in his speech, would dream of uttering the consonant *r*?

It sometimes almost sounds like *ah*:

“ There was an old man of Columbia,
Who was thirsty and called out for some beer.”
Lear, *A Book of Nonsense*

“ Couldst thou wish for lineage higher
Than twin sister of Thalia?”
Keats

This, however, is the speech of a swell, and should be avoided in actual conversation. But in the following exercises you must play the dandy and make the *r* sound like *ah*, as a stepping-stone to the right pronunciation.

80. My dear Peer, fear clear beer.
Wire, tyre, fire higher, liar, (lyre).
Sour, hour, shower, cower.
Dare, care, fair pair, where were their squares?
81. Higher spire, dire fire,
I admire your desire
To expire with Sophia,
Shyer friar, in the choir.

You perspire, squire, Sire,
Wire, slyer liar: tyres.
It transpires that Uriah
Hired, tired, drier quires.
82. You're seedy, my ducky. Look here,
I just got a splendid idea:
You order some beer—
The true panacea,
And your troubles will soon disappear.

The *e* of *-ed* (Past Participle) is only pronounced after *t* or *d*: *petted* (*-id*), *nodded*, but *guessed* (*-t*), *skilled* (*-d*), and the following pairs form perfect rhymes:

83. Tact—lacked, best—guessed, least—ceased, taste—based, soft—coughed, worst—nursed, shaft—laughed, last—passed, stand—planned, second—beckoned, heard—stirred, dullard—coloured.

In the following words the three letters preceding the final *d* sound like one long murmur:

84. He staggered back, stammered, shuddered, scampered off, covered with a battered hat, and in a checkered suit. He shivered and entered, sheltered by the porch. A powdered, well-mannered, good-humoured, good-natured servant ushered him in, lowered the blinds, offered him an upholstered chair, ordered him to be catered for and disappeared. He was captured, collared, injured, dishonoured, belaboured, tortured, quartered, murdered, interred.

Silent or Vocalized *r*

85. It is your turn. There were the largest churches of Ireland. Summer has disappeared earlier this year. Four storm-worn Worcestershire porters or warders. The Earl of Harcourt was hardly ashore, when he ordered a motor-car. Their sisters care for more furniture. Oxford boarders wear their mortar-boards. Forlorn, uncared-for girl, forbear. The darker part of the Northern hemisphere. Four score years older. The other forty works of the third floor were water-colours; there were neither worse nor better

pictures. The figures of our first artist are measured by measures of another, far finer, deeper nature.

86. In our parlour near your fires
Bertha heard her father snore;
Arthur Wardour's punctured tyres
Were there scattered on the floor.
Four yards farther than her father
Poured her mother gingerbeer.
You're not thirsty? Search the larder,
Covered jars are stored there, dear.
Poor, fair girl, you're nearly starving,
There were hardly any more.
It's hard work, sir, ironing, carving,
Near your yard, before your door.
87. Poor Lenore tore her hair, her fair hair,
For her warm heart was sore, with despair,
With a dire desire
A fierce, burning fire,
To murder herself then and there.
88. There were four sisters of Birmingham,
There's a wonderful yarn, dear, concerning 'm:
Forty dollars a year
They earned, as I hear,
Merely searching torn papers, and burning 'em.
89. Your fervour, fair girl, dear Sophia,
Your splendour, your mirth, I admire,
But once in Moldavia,
You'll change your behaviour
And turn an inordinate liar.

Consonantal r

Before a vowel *r* is a consonant, formed by the tongue tip and the hard palate. Standard English has no uvular (throat) *r*, which is rather like the *ch* in German *ach*, and Scotch *loch*. If your natural *r* is this scraping sound, it should be eradicated mercilessly. It is strictly forbidden. Is not the rather common substitution of *w*, e.g. *wevy* for *very*, due to carelessness or affectation, an indication of the place where the *r* is produced, the front? This mispronunciation could never be the lot of a uvular, a back-letter. Uvular *r* is common in German, Dutch and Parisian French; not in Southern French, where, owing to the influence of the Italian, the *r* is generally trilled. This rolled *r* is also used in Central French by actors and singers, being more sonorous, harmonious and less fatiguing for the throat. But in Southern English it is "taboo." Unless you succeed in throwing it off, your pronunciation is bad, however correct the rest of your sounds may be. I have often heard it said by throat-*r* sufferers, for sufferers they are, that they are totally unable to produce a front-*r*. They err. Their organs of speech are not different from those of the Southern Englishman. Patience and perseverance! Labour conquers everything. The most convenient stepping-stone is the *d*. Say *fd-fd-fd*, etc., at least twenty times, with increasing speed to the veriest *ratatat*, and the result will be a sound, hardly discernible from a trilled *r*. Perform this rattle-snake trick several times over. Next do the following exercises:

90. *Bedick*, *bdick* (*brick*); *kedy*, *kdy* (*cry*); *dedeam*, *ddeam* (*dream*); *fedee*, *fdde* (*free*); *gedeat*, *gdeat* (*great*);

pedice, pdice (*price*); tedee, tdee (*tree*); steding, stding (*string*); shediek, shdiek (*shriek*).

91. Pdeach, gdeat pdeacher, pdaise, Cdeation,
Ddeam, pdoud, cdown pdince, fdee fdom gdief,
Pdactise pdetty pdonunciation,
Bding bdight pdose, Bdown, stdong, fdesh, bdief.

92. Preach, great preacher, praise Creation,
Dream, proud crown prince, free from grief,
Practise pretty pronunciation,
Bring bright prose, Brown, strong, fresh, brief.

93. Treacle trickled from Frank's apron,
Trim prim Granny tried to dry,
Frank broke strong, green, criss-cross tree trunks,
Crush crisp crumbs, friend Frank, fret, fry!

94. Scramble, scrape, scrawl, screw, scripture, scroll,
scrub. Sprain, spray, spread, spring, spree, sprite, sprout,
spruce.

Strap, straw, streak, stream, stress, stretch, strict,
string, strip, stroke, strop, strut, stride. A strong, strag-
gling stranger strolled in the straw-strown streets and
struck straight into the Strand.

Now your *r* is in its right place, the front. But your troubles are not yet at an end. For the English *r* is not trilled, not rolled. It is "fricative," that is, produced by the friction or rustling of the breath, a weak, almost vocalic squeeze (called in German *Reibungsgeräusch*), and

after *t* and *d* it is distinctly buzzed, so that *train* almost sounds like *chain*. Pronounce the following pairs first perfectly alike, then with the slightest difference, only so much that there can be no doubt which word you meant to say. Say *train*, but think of *chain*.

95. **Chain—train, chance—trance, chap—trap, cheat—treat, chip—trip, chase—trace, chick—trick, chill—trill, chuck—truck, chew—true, cheese—trees, chess—tress, choose—trews.**

More difficult still for the throaty ones is the initial tongue tip *r*. A practical ass's bridge (no offence!) is *h-d*, which should gradually pass on to the fricative sound of the *r*.

96. **h-dat (*rat*), h-ding (*ring*), h-dose (*rose*), h-doof (*roof*), h-doyal (*royal*), h-di-pe (*ripe*), h-dun (*run*), h-dound (*round*), h-diff-h-daff (*riff-raff*).**

97. **Room, read, write, ruler, wrong, rust, raven, rock, rough-rider, right, ready, rest, real, Russia. Rise refreshed, Rose. Roll, restless, rippling river round romantic rocks, round ruins. Royal Richard, reigning regent, rarely rode round Rotten Row. Ronald Wright read Russian random rhymes.**

98. **Reckless Ralph, riotous ringleader, rushed, running rapidly, and reached Ryde. Ronald readily remembered reading and re-reading rhymed railroad romances, ridiculous rubbish. Ruth really wrote rather readable**

reviews regarding recent religious recitals and races. Rightly or wrongly, refuse rare red roses; rather receive ripe raisins. Rural Robert recommenced rearing radishes, roots, rice, rye and rhubarb. Roger's roaring rival Reynold, rude, rich ruffian, rascal, rogue, returned, rambling, roving, roaming, robbing rubber rules, rotten ropes and rusty razors, wrestling wringing wretched Rachel's ruddy wrist.

r—r

99. Horror and terror. Bear our errors. Harry ran before Eric. Wear our earrings. Drearier or airier rumours. Mary rear a rabbit. Carry read a very rare romance. Roar, rare rearer, roar! There arose a very rare error in it. Here are our orreries.

100. Secretary, prerogative, laboratory, deteriorate, irretrievable, structural, temporarily, preliminarily, extraordinarily.

101. Hear a roarer, rarer, rearer,
 Hear a roarer or our roars,
 There are airier or nearer,
 Dearer orreries or oars.

l—r

102. Already, jewellery, bell-rope, cavalry, grill-room, bulrushes, cattle-ranch, wheelwright, railroad, tool-rack, ball-room, rifle-range, mill-round. An able rural ruler. Royal regent. Gentle rain. Gable roof. Funeral rites. You'll run a real risk, Coleridge. All right, I will recall revelries, little rogue!

m—r

103. Home-rule, ram-rod, primrose, shamrock, bot-
tomry, tramrails, comrade, steam-roller. Some rest, get
them ready, same room, fame rises, tame raven. Come
rack, come rope!

n—r

104. Enraged, inroad, unrest, unripe, unroll, sunrise,
kitchen-range, yeomanry. I can ride, thin ropes, in
writing, sudden rush. Henry Monroe, John Ruskin,
German Rhine, Rotten Row.

s—r

105. Miss Ruth, guess Rose, moss-wreath, Prince-
Regent, Viceroy, worse rhyme, glass roof, class room,
brass rod, horse-race. That's right, but it's wrong to
chase rabbits, Robert.

z—r

106. Prize-running was rare, as Rose was rich. Mrs.
Ross in Disraeli's Rolls Royce. John's rival, whose
romance James read, is wrong. Rise, royal Son of Israel,
in Ezra's wrath.

sh—r

107. Shriek, shrub, shrine, shrill. Crush roses. Eat
shrimps and mush-rooms, bushranger! The English
reader gives French roots. Blush Ronald, shrink from
foolish rubbish, Wright. Shrive, shrivelled, shrewd,
shrugging shrew, shred shrouds.

ch—r

108. **Much** rain; **which** ran; **Scotch** rum. **Catch** rabbits with **birch**-rods in **Dutch** roads. **Sketch** roughly **such** roses. **Reach** Ryde.

th—r

109. **Thrash**, **thread**, **three**, **threshold**, **thrill**, **thrift**, **throat**, **throne**, **throng**, **throw**, **through**, **thrust**, **thrive**, **throb**, **throttle**.

110. **Bath**-room, **hearth**-rug, **death**-rate, **birth**-right. **Smith** wrote he at **length** reached the **fifth** row in the **seventh** room. The **tenth** rocky **path** runs into the **eighth** road **through** **Thrace**.

r between vowels

111. **Very**, **serious**, **glorious**, **curious**, **furious**, **spurious**, **delirious**, **various**, **general**, **funeral**, **honourable**, **caterer**, **upholsterer**.

b—r, c—r, d—r, etc.

112. **Brush** brass **bracelets**, **brave**, **bright** **Browning**,
 Crystal **cross**, **cracked**, **crockery**, **crows**;
Drowsy **drudge** **drops** **dreaming**, **drowning**,
Free, **frank** **friends** from **France** **fret** **frowning**,
 Grinning **groom**, **grey** **griffon** **grows**.
Precious **presents**, **prepaid** **price**, **pray**,
Strong, **strict** **stranger**, **strike**, **stroke**, **stroll**, **stray**,
 Tree-trunks, **train**-track, **treasure** **trove**.
Thrive, **three** **throats** **through** **thrift** **thrice** **throttling**,
 Round **rough** **ragged** **rocks** **run**, **rove**.

113. Round gray prisons green grass grows,
 Freddy threw three grains of gravel,
Screaming, shrieking, screeching crows
 Frightened from green graveyards travel.

This exercise ought to sound like the beat of a drum;
accompany it by a devil's tattoo on the table with your
pencil.

114. Thrum, thrum, thrum, thrum,
 Bring a bright, brass brooch,
 Hear a roarer or approach,
Strike a strong, straight string; strap, strop, strip,
 encroach,
 Break bric-a-brac, brave Brown,
From a great grievous wrong or a cruel threat shrink,
 Pray, prick a shrimp through,
 Scrub, scratch a crank screw.
 Track a tricky trust,
 Threaten, throttle, thrust!

In this exercise only *r* is consonantal.

115. Wherever a river ran over a rock
 Recover, oh rower, our oar or our block.
 Moreover we never are nearer our aim,
 Then where there are readers who roar at our
 name
 For I rightly remember a drearier air,
 Far around near a roaring or merrier fair.

Read this exercise first replacing every *r* by *s* (*z*). Re-read
it with the correct fricative *r*.

116.

In the entrance of the laundry sundry kindred spirits
fret,

Poetry of wintry country Patrick read to Cedric Brett.
From the vestry to the pantry hundreds of electric
trams

Run; the contradicting sentry angrily conundrums crams.
Cry, terrestrial, strong, equestrian, Christian, true,
pedestrian, grand,

Try, illustrious, paltry, monstrous minstrel, tramping
trot the Strand.

Truly intricate construction of brass instruments Cath-
erine trusts,

Trivial treacherous contrasts travellers hungrily break
in restaurants crusts.

Whispering gallery, trickery, raillery, great discovery,
wondering true,

Go to nunnery for a century; flavorful beer in brewery
brew.

Sugary, celery, savoury chicory robs from scullery
Modereen Rue,

Tawdry frippery, mockery, quackery Thackeray's bride
from lottery drew.

CHAPTER VI

TH

The pronunciation of *th* offers no difficulty. Place your tongue tip between the teeth and say *t* (*d*). Everybody can do it. What then is the explanation of so many foreigners'

neglect of this most characteristic of English sounds? Laziness. "This it is, and nothing more." They do not realize how objectionable a fault it is to substitute *d*, *s*, *z*, etc., a fault which betrays their foreign origin at the first few sentences they utter. If once you are convinced, gentle reader, that it is the gravest sin you can commit in English pronunciation, you will never again be guilty of such a phonetical crime. It requires indeed a supple tongue, and yours is a bit stiff perchance. Well then, make it supple by the following exercises. When you feel yourself quite strong, you may form this sound by putting the tongue tip against the back of the upper teeth, but beginners must not think of this.¹ Now take your hand-glass, and start, with a will!

a.—INITIAL

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
117. Sin—sin—sin, Thin—thin—thin , Sin— thin , sin— thin , Thin—sin—thin .	118. Day—day—day, They—they—they , Day— they , day— they , They—day—they .

b.—MEDIAL

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
119. Passes—passes, Path is—path is , Passes— path is , Path is—passes .	120. Wordy—wordy, Worthy—worthy , Wordy— worthy , Worthy—wordy .

¹ When I made the class in a London school do a *th* exercise, one zealous boy stuck his tongue so far out in my direction that I felt positively insulted. Imitate this boy.

c.—FINAL

<i>Voiceless</i>	<i>Voiced</i>
121. Miss—miss—miss, My th —my th —my th , Miss—my th , miss— my th , My th —miss—my th .	122. Bays—bays—bays, Ba th e—ba th e—ba th e, Bays—ba th e, bays— ba th e, Ba th e—bays—ba th e.

Babies and even some grown-up people often say *f* or *v* for *th*, like Budge in "Helen's Babies," who says *fink*, *troof*, *breeve* for *think*, *truth*, *breathe*. It will be useful to do the following exercise, which will show you how near to each other these sounds are, and how far the *th* is from *d* or *s* (*z*).

123. <i>fief</i>	thief	<i>fresh</i>	thresh
<i>first</i>	thirst	<i>deaf</i>	death
<i>fret</i>	threat-	<i>laugh</i>	lath
<i>free</i>	three	<i>van</i>	than
<i>frill</i>	thrill	<i>sheaves</i>	shea thes
<i>fro</i>	throw	<i>loaves</i>	loa thes

124.	Saw— <i>for</i> — thaw
	sawn— <i>fawn</i> — thorn
	sin— <i>fin</i> — thin
	sought— <i>fought</i> — thought
	lease— <i>leaf</i> — Leith
	dine— <i>vine</i> — thine
	rise— <i>rive</i> — writhe
	close— <i>clove</i> — clothe

VOICELESS

(a) *Initial*

125.	s	th		s	th
	sin	thin		sigh	thigh
	sick	thick		sought	thought
	sum	thumb		cymbal	thimble
	sank	thank		sawn	thorn
	saw	thaw		sink	think
	song	thong		sud	thud
	sing	thing		surd	third
	seem	theme		swart	thwart
	sunder	thunder		sues	thews
	sill	thill		ceases	thesis
	soul	thole		Cecil	thistle

126. Theatre, **theory**, **thief**, **theft**, **thatch**, **thwack**, **thirty**, **thermometer**, a **thousand thanks**.

127. **Thingummy**, **Theodore**, **Thuringia**, **Thurston**, **Thackeray**, **Thebes**, **Thisbe**, **Thule**, **Thrace**, **Theseus**, **Themis**, **Thalia**, **Thucidides**.

(b) *Medial*

128. **Nothing**, **panther**, **toothache**, **lengthen**, **strengthen**, **healthy**, **wealthy**, **filthy**, **pithy**, **athwart**, **author**, **catholic**, **orthodox**, **gothic**, **cathedral**, **anthem**, **atheist**, **mythic**, **arithmetic**, **ether**.

129. **Methuselah**, **Bartholomew**, **Matthew**, **Luther**, **Nathan**, **Bethesda**, **Bethlehem**. **Golgotha**, **Pantheon**,

Par**th**enon, Py**th**agoras, Mar**th**on. Elisab**ethan**,
North**um**berland, O**th**ello, Hawth**orn**, Eth**el**.

(c) *Final*

130. face	faith	tense	tenth
moss	moth	gross	growth
worse	worth	pass	path
truce	truth	erse	earth
alas	a lath	souse	south
miss	myth	use	youth
norse	north	sluice	sleuth
mouse	mouth	lease	Leith
force	fourth	purse	Perth

131. **Fifth**, **eighth**, **ninth**, **plinth**, **heath**, **death**, **wealth**,
filth, **tooth**, **warmth**, **length**, **mirth**, **month**, **seventeenth**,
millionth, **zenith**, **mammoth**, **loath**.

132. **Bath**, **Goth**, **Keith**, **Forth**, **Bedworth**, **Bourne-**
mouth, **Bridgenorth**, **Kenilworth**, **Goldsmith**, **Meredith**,
Ainsworth. **Judith**, **Sabaoth**, **Goliath**, **Sabbath**, **Shibbo-**
leth, **Sochothbenoth**.

VOICED

(a) *Initial*

133.	d	th	d	th
	day	they	dough	though
	die	thy	dare	there
	doze	those	dense	thence
	d's	these	den	then

134. **This**, **that**, **thine**, **thee**; **thus**.

(b) *Medial*

135.	d	th		d	th
	udder	other		Eden	heathen
	sudden	southern		ladder	lather
	eider	either		breeding	breathing
	wordy	worthy		loading	loathing
	larder	father		ardour	rather

136.	z	th		z	th
	rising	writhing		closing	clothing
	teasing	teething		wizard	withered

137. **F**ather, mo**th**er, rhy**th**m, **e**ither, lea**th**er, to**g**ether, loa**th**ing, ba**th**er, nor**th**ern, far**th**ing, di**th**er.

138. Midlo**th**ian, Wor**th**ing, We**th**erell, Wu**th**ering, Wi**th**erden, Galswo**th**y, Anstru**th**er, Ro**th**erham, Ro**th**erhit**h**e.

(c) *Final*

139.	z	th		z	th
	whiz	with		rise	writ h e
	lies	lit h e		seas	seet h e
	baize	bat h e		close	clot h e
	breeze	breat h e		ease	wreat h e
	ties	tit h e		lays	lat h e
	size	scyt h e		sways	swat h e
	tease	teet h e		she's	sheat h e

140. **W**ith, smoo**th**, bo**o**th, mou**th** (v.), loa**th**e.

str and thr compared

141. <i>strew</i>	through		<i>strop</i>	throb
<i>strawn</i>	throne		<i>strong</i>	throng
<i>stress</i>	thresh		<i>strive</i>	thrive
<i>stream</i>	three		<i>striven</i>	thriven

142. **Throw** *strobiles*. *Strive* **thriving**. He **threw** *straw* **through** *strong* **throng**s in **three** *streets*. I *struck* **thrushes**. He *strikes* **thrice**.

s, z, d, th

143. Griffith's fists and somebody's **thumbs**. I **thought** it seemed a **thoroughly** simple **thing** to sing **the** **third** song. I sink, I **think**, in **the** seething sea, indeed I **think** I sink. Someone **thumps** at **the** door. What did you see at her **theatre**? I saw **Thaw's** play. We *dare* not go **there**. To-day **they** close **either** at **the** first or at **the** fifth hour. Will Annie sing anything if some sing something? **These** *d's* are singularly **thin**. **The** **other** udder of **the** cow. A sudden southern wind. A wordy, **though** **worthy** protest. We saw him rising **writhing**. The wizard slept on **withered** leaves at Leith, at least I **thought** so. His enthusiastic ardour is rather suspect. **This** youth used to breathe in the breeze. We miss **pith** in **this** mysterious myth. I shall lose my purse at Perth when I pass **that** path. Grace's wraith. Force **the** fourth fort. In his face I have faith. **Thus** *dust* **this** disk.

A clear-cut severance between two identical letters being impossible in rapid speech, we drop one of them. But in case of the *th* some very careful foreigners change one of the twins into *s* and the other into *d*. The result is that

both are clear and both wrong. Thus, meaning *with them* they say *wisdom*.

144. Both thumbs=bo- thumbs	with them =wi- them
tenth thing=ten- thing	smoo the that =smoo-
Judith thinks =Judi-	that
thinks	loa the this =loa- this
Ruth thanks =Ru- thanks	ba the there =ba- there

Especially when *s* and *th* are neighbours, the latter is in constant danger of being degraded to a mere *s*. Give the fellow his due, and say correctly:

145. Smith, swath, strength, something, seventh, sympathetic, stethoscope, bismuth, henceforth, hyacinth, hearse-cloth.

146. Thumb-screw, thirsty thunderstorm. Thurston, Thessalonians, Corinthians, mouth-piece, breathless.

147. Smithy, southern, Galsworthy, Southey, Southampton.

148. Worthless, ruthless, faithless youth
Thinks of something worse, forsooth,
Thwacks by stealth a thick-skinned sleuth.
Asquith, Portsmouth, Wordsworth, Smith,
Say "fir**th**" first, Seth Smith, next: "fr**ith**."

Th is easy, I said, and so it is. But before and after certain letters the quick movement of the tongue tip is rather difficult and requires special training.

s—th

149. Patrick's **thumb**. A spacious **theatre**. This **thing**. Serious **thoughts**. Alice **thanks**. Six **thirds**. A nice **theme**. A worse **theory**. A brass **thimble**. A loose **thread**. Anæsthetic. A horse **thief** and a base **thug** pass **through** a dense **thicket**.

th—s

150. Births, deaths, months, cloths, myths, moths, fifths, eighths, tenths. Heathside, Southsea, toothsome, worth seeing. Smithson, the soothsayer. Gethsemane. Notwithstanding Griffiths, the youth smiled, Edith sobbed, and Judith's faith sank.

z—th

151. As **though**. Is **this**? Was **that**? Has **the** man? Seize **them**. Who goes **there**? Use **thy** ruse **thus**. I praise **thee**. Besides **those**. He hies **thence**. Arise **then**.

th—z

152. Paths, oaths, baths, truths, clothes, loathes, smoothes, youths, mouths, wreaths, writhes, bathes, seethes, scythes.

th—s—th

153. Smith's **thrift**, Edith's **thimble**, the youth's **thumb**, Meredith's **theories**, Wordsworth's **thoughts**, Macbeth's **threat**.

s—th—s—th

154. Henry VI's **throne** (sik-s-th-s-throne).

th—sh

155. The fourth *shawl*, the fifth *ship*, the seventh *shelf*, the eighth *shake*, the tenth *shark*. *Earth-shine*. The ninth *shabby youth shall* wear the eleventh *suit*. His *teeth shone*, but his *oath shocked both sheriffs* of *Perthshire*.

sh—th

156. The English *throne*. Welsh *theatre*. Foolish *things*. Irish *thistles*. Wash *thoroughly*. Cherish *thoughts*.

d—th

157. Bread*th*. Width. Hundred*th*. Thousand*th*. Lead *them*. I need *that*. Do you mind *this*? He should *though*. He read *thus*. Send *those* books. Could *they*? Would *that*? He stood *there* more awed *than* ever.

th—d

158. Bathed, breathe*d*, sheath*ed*, wreath*ed*, bequeath*ed*, writ*hed*, loath*ed*, cloth*ed*, betroth*ed*, sooth*ed*, smooth*ed*, mouth*ed*.

REPETITION

159. A *thrilling, enthralling myth without rhythm*.

In Elisabeth's *youth*, in *the fifth month* after Ruth's *birth* and before *the thin*, sympathetic unhealthy Edith's *death*, Martha, Cynthia, Bertha, Ethel and Kathleen Firth were *gathered together* near a *heather-covered heath*. *They thought they saw their thrifty mother*,

enthusiastically thrashing **the** writhing Arthur Low**ther**, Tabitha Smith and Timothy Thorpe, in **their** swathing-clo**thes**, with **three** thick thongs and thistles from **the** hearth, through **the** dearth of **the** withering wreaths on earth. **Their** thirsty, worthless, athletic, lethargic father, throwing down scy**thes**, snaths, and every**thing** thread and thrum to sm**ithereens** on **the** threshing-floor, as lit**he** as a panther, as **thin** as a lath, went forthwith stealthily and breathlessly **thither** and, without mirth, thumped **them** thuddingly. **Then** he thrust **three** teeth down **their** diphtheritic throats. At length, in his wrath, with an oath and a threat, after **the** theft of **thirteen** thimbles, a **thin** thread, and **three** thousand and **thirty** thermometers from a wealthy, thriving cathedral and theatre builder, **the** heathenish thug methodically smothered **the** still breathing youths. **Rather** a bother, I think.

But **then**, both **the** slothful youths were bathing in **their** father's bathing suits, either at **the** baths of Perth, Portsmouth or Southampton (at 333, Threadneedle street—a thronged thoroughfare), or in **the** Firth of Forth. Neither of **the** youths, though writhing, thought anything of **this**. Neither did **their** father. Quoth he blithely:

“By **the** throbbing of my thumbs—something filthy **this** way comes!” as Macbeth hath it, or rather hath it not. **This** ruthless thwacking and thumping was done on both sides of a footpath with thickets full of thrushes, and feathery hyacinths underneath **the** undergrowth on both sides.

Both **the** rather unworthy mother, and **the** loathsome, uncouth father were heathens, and **therefore** without faith or truth. Shouldn't **they** both of **them** spend **three** thoughtful months in **the** throes of thraldom?

160. Strengthen **thou then those** brethren, brother Seth,
with **the** pithy thoughts of truth, strength, faith, health,
wealth, mirth and filth, as **though the** withered thorns and
the scythe of death threatened **them!**

And so forth. . . .

161. **There** were three brothers of Leith,
One upon **the** earth, two underneath,
For did not **they** smother
With bath-cloths each **other**,
For **the** theft of a scythe and a sheath!

162. **There** were thirteen fathers of Perth,
And **this** is, Ruth, what **they** were worth:
Thirty thousand, together;
Though in thundery weather
They thrust all **their** wealth in **the** earth.

163. A ruthless and heathenish youth,
Thoughtless, thin, swarthy, rather uncouth,
Though he thrice took **the** path
Through a thicket to Bath,
Still to no **other** man breathed **the** truth.

164. Arthur thought of **the** pithiest myth,
This is of **this** myth, Smith, **the** pith:
That a thief was **the** brother,
An author **the** mother
Of Edith and Dorothy Smith.

165. **The** faithless thieves lithely went **thither**
Where thistles and hyacinths wither,

**Though through thick and through thin,
With their kith and their kin,
Their father came thwacking them hither.**

th and r

166. **Leathery** brushes, **feathery** thrushes,
Withering grass and gathering clouds,
Tethering strings and smothering crowds.
The brother is gathering withering hay,
The mother is crying, **the father** is trying
To further a **bother** at Fotheringay.
Of Southern cross are in wondering awe
Friend Leatheringcourt or a mother-in-law.
Anstruther is crying, another is frying,
And hither and thither Miss Smithers is prying,
A sister or rather a brother is trying
To smother a father who's running around,
And smoother are neither, but farther are either
The worthier earl or his hound.
Strike, smith, in thy smithy, strong, swarthy
smith, prithee,
With strength, brawny smith, strike with strong
strokes thy stithy,
Where uproar or clamour is drowned.
You latter each other; now tether, oh mother,
The gray to the heathery ground.

167. Strew **thrones**, **throw** wreaths, strive, **thriving**
youths,
Three smooth roads run through **thistles**.
In reading trust **those** **thrilling** truths,
As **the** **thrush** from shrill **throat** whistles.

Blush, **Th**ring! **Th**ose **th**oughts of **the**ories **th**rong;
Brave *Tristram*, bear *our error*.
Such loath**th**some **th**emes are *rather* wrong,
Shrink, friend, from death's *great terror*.
Thus brush *Ruth's* teeth and wash *Seth's* mouth,
Fresh **breath** smells fresh like breezes,
Al**th**ough **th**ree streams rush **th**rough **th**e South,
Where it nei**th**er **th**aws nor *freezes*.

168. **Th**ree strangers ran **th**rough *Portsmouth* Street,
With **th**ridles, **th**roat-straps, *traces*,
Try *Griffith's* fruitcreams, *regular treat*,
The Firth of For**th** breeze braces.
Throw screws **th**rough *bathrooms*, read *Macbeth*,
Bring brass **th**ings, rub **this** stirrup,
String six **th**ick **th**reads round *rose trees*, *Seth*,
In spring *green* crickets chirrup.
Cross bridges shrewdly, **th**rottling **th**roats,
Shrive, heath**th**enish, *ruthless brothers*,
Strike, *father*, **th**irty **th**ousand *groats*,
For a rare, red rose rob **oth**ers.
169. **Th**rift**th**en from *Shropshire*, friends, **th**rive,
Thrice with **th**reats *Ruth* to frighten **th**ey strive;
Through *Ruth's* shrieks **th**ey grow red,
Shrinking, **th**ree shrouds **th**ey shred,
Strike **th**ese **breth**ren, strong, shrewd *Ruth*; **th**en
shrive.

CHAPTER VII

THE A OF "MAN"

Mark the difference between the *a* of *tan* and the *e* of *ten*. The latter is closer and approaches the *i* of *tin*. It is vulgar to say *selary* instead of *salary*. Note *Jack Ketch* (hangman). *-ed, -es* and *-et* have a distinct *i*-sound. *Given—Heaven, merit—spirit, roses—posies* are allowable rhymes.

170. Ten	tan		text	taxed
then	than		gem	jam
guess	gas		fellow	fallow
bet	bat		celery	salary
men	man		perish	parish
led	lad		vessel	vassal
head	had		letter	latter
set	sat		affect	a fact
mesh	mash		adept	adapt

e

171. Tempest. Pall Mall. Pleasure, leisure. The bell-wether went ahead. Sell eleven bedsteads. Friend Fred then sent several lead pencils.

Learn the following short story by heart; it contains nearly all words in which *ea* has this sound.

172. The deaf, sweating, zealous, treacherous zealot meant dealt, dreamt, leant, leapt and threatened the cleanly seamstress with a heavy weapon, treading her

breast, when she was endeavouring to cleanse a thread
with leaven, spreading death.

173. Seven pleasant gentlemen, clever and content,
Went together steadily to a settlement of Kent.
Then they sent ten well-dressed men with heavy
 chests ahead,
Every penniless friend they met ate catsup, as they
 said.
Lend a penny, I've not any, yes, you've many, I bet it,
Yet I guess Bess never betted, then I'll let you get it.
Freddy spread a net in Delhi, present at a wedding,
Eleanor read letters sent from Edinburgh to Reading.

a

174. Mad-cap, ash-pan, ankle-jack, sand-bag. Thrash and
clap-trap. That man hangs a cap and a battered hat on a
ramshackle hat-rack. The fat of the land. Sam lack-land.
Catch-as-catch-can. A bad handicap. A black and tan stag.
A flash in the pan. As a matter of fact the cab rattled. A
sprat to catch a mackerel.

175. To the band-stand ran the man,
Angrily he sprang and ran,
With his hat in his hand
He ran to the strand,
Swam back from the sand,
When the smack was manned
By Captain Grand.
What's the matter, said the latter,
Man, you're as mad as a hatter.
Pack the plaid and hat and bags,
Wrap them flat in tattered rags.

Fanny stammered Esperanto,
Strapped and smashed a black portmanteau.

a and e alternately

176. Step-ladder, set-back, sledge-hammer, bell-handle,
tent-flap, empty-handed, Self and Craggs.

Left hand, pet cat, red rag, felt hat, deck hands, red
handed, speckled band, bevel angle.

177. Rack-rent, fag-end, mantel-shelf, bandy-legged,
black-leg, addle-headed.

Gas jet, bad temper, clammy sweat, black death.
Land's end. Hampstead. Jack-Ketch.

178. Lend a hand and pet the cat,
 Send the sand and let the flat.
A kettle of metal they rattle and clatter,
And settle with mettle the battle and matter.

179. He said he was sad,
 That the bed was so bad,
 When we met on a mat in the passage.
And the lather you get on the leather is fat,
I was glad that he fled with the message.

180. That neck of Jack's pet cat is fat,
 Jet black specks on her back has that cat,
 Jack's left hand gets wet,
 When he's patting his pet,
Clever Jack should know better than that.

181. Tell where Albert gets his hats,
 Fetch the net, Pet, catch the rats.

Tremble, gamble, ramble, temple,
Anger, wax and vex, then trample.
Frank sprang madly in the camp.
Get your bat and sell the stamp.
Men, this man has shackles, fetters,
Then the latter read the letters.
Alice Ellis tackled shepherds,
Spaniels leapt on speckled leopards.
Reynold pannelled, ran on Reynard,
Led a lad to languid Leonard
Geoffrey jaggered, kennels, channels,
Annal and antennal flannels.
Bend your neck, fresh messenger,
Stand you back, rash passenger.
Candour, splendour, Janet's jennet,
Panic, hygienic, sennet.

A thrashing on the scalp is a quite refreshing help.
Pat is threshing damp hemp and lashing the whelp.
The edge of Madge's glass is bevelled,
And wealthy bankers in pleasure revelled,
When clever clans were travelling,
Tangled threads unravelling.
Don't swagger, bad beggar,
I'll get my dagger, and back you stagger.
Then stretch your legs and catch ten bags,
Wet gnats there are in plenty,
But ants in tents are scanty
And my friend has twenty eggs.

The heavy, lacquered, chequered valves then cracked
and bent themselves,
When savages sat sweating, chatting, fretting on black
shelves.

CHAPTER VIII

THE A OF "MARY"

This vowel has the sound of *è* in French *mère*, not of *e* in German *mehr*.

	<i>French</i>	<i>English</i>
182.	air	air
	Caire	care
	terre	tear
	faire	fair
	mère	mayor
	d'air	dare
	verre	where
	père	pair

183. Heir, spare, rare, mayors,
Care, Clare, for prayers,
Tear their square pears,
Spare hares in snares.
Repair, fair Mary,
To airy dairy,
With their canary.
Prepare the wary,
And flaring, swearing,
Take care, forbearing.

184. Chary Mary, airy fairy, their canary dared to tear,
There librarians, fair Bavarians, Unitarians,
Bear fair Marian to their lair, bear in air,

Share their pears on stairs in Erin,
Where square bears their snares were tearing,
Ere bare, fair-haired mayors were there.

CHAPTER IX

THE A OF "FATE"

This is a compound of the *e* of *fen* and the *i* of *it*, represented in phonetic script by *ei*. A common fault is to sound the initial part as the *a* of *far*, saying, e.g., *lidy* instead of *lady*.

Say *fen*—*it*, separately, dropping the *n*.

Then insert between the two parts the glide *y* (of *yes*):
fe-y-it.

Next damp the tone of the last element to a "vanish," saying: *fe-y-(i)t*.

This is the right pronunciation of *fate*.

185. Acorn, grain, maple, steak, safe. Pale ale, break away, Lady Day; brazen-faced, safety-razor, scape-grace; waylay, gainsay, railway, mainstay, stalemate, painstaking, heyday. Cadi, sheik, caliph, dais, dado, kale, caitiff, brocade, tornado, *auto-da-fé*. Qua, Hades, Chaos, archaic status, stratum, gratis, crustacean, ave, vade-mecum, opaque, maniac, affidavit, ignoramus. Ballet, bouquet, crochet, chalet, sobriquet.

186. Adam, Abraham, Baal, Canaan, Babel, Cain, Abel, Gabriel, David, Jacob, Nathan, Sabaoth, Satan. Asia, Latium, Thrace, Damon, Thales, Trajan, Plato.

187. Baby is afraid of apes. May James stay away?
Obey, craven slave. The daily papers state the decay of
trade shakes great nations. They gave Lady Amy fragrant
daisies, dahlias and acacias. May Braithwaite came late
at Avondale. A lady's maid is named an abigail. Help
angels, make assay! is an exclamation in a famous play
by Shakespeare.

188. Be veracious, don't parade,
Bravely call a spade a spade,
Face your failures, say your say,
Make your tale yea, yea—nay, nay.

189. Kate, make haste, plain cakes for sale,
Taste some grapes, the cake is stale,
Fagin wails on rainy days.
Bathing, racing, favourite plays
Change great stranger's famous name.
Patron saint gave shame or fame.
Chase the scapegrace, graceful ladies,
Nathan came away from Cadiz.
Taste the dainty pastry, Ralph,
Play the bass, and paint the safe,
Take a train with patent brakes,
Shake the cradle, wake the sheiks.
Abel slain by Cain for wages!
Halfpence, gaols, veils, ladles, gauges.

190. May, a lady's maid, straight from Marseilles,
Takes a place in the mail train to Wales.
May's gazes are scathing,
May hates swathing, bathing,
And sailing, and playing plain scales.

191. Mabel, maiden, pale-faced, radiant, grave,
Gave a veil, lathe and lace to her slave.
Nay, in vain, I'm afraid,
Yea, the brazen-faced maid
Made eight skeins of the veil Mabel gave.
192. A stranger in danger is staying
At Yale for the sake of his playing.
Again and again
His breaking a chain
Makes him take to champagne and crocheting.

CHAPTER X

THE I OF "FIGHT"

This is a compound of the *a* of *far* and the *i* of *it*, represented in phonetic symbols by *ai*. A common fault is to sound the first element as the *o* of *or*, e.g. *Oi loike* (I like) —a dreadful vulgarism which should be eradicated.

Say *far*—*it* separately, dropping the *r*.

Then join the two parts by means of the glide *y* of *yes*: *fa-y-it*. Next diminish the sound of the last element; deaden it as it were to a mere "vanish," saying: *fa-y(i)t*. This is the sound of *fight*.

193. Boy	by	toil	tile
toy	tie	point	pint
voice	vice	troy	try
coin	kine	quoit	kite
boil	bile	alloy	ally
foil	file	devoid	divide

194. White mice, spiders, vipers. Indictment, lichen, ay, aisle, choir, viscount, python, bronchitis, gyves, psychical. Finite, idolize, acclimatize, iodine. Fire-fly, eye-bright, lime-light, knife-grinder, high-minded, type-writer. Lino-type, nitrofy, isoclinal, hydrodynamic, diatribe, paradigm.

195. Amalekite, Dinah, Elias, Goliath, Hiram, Israelite, Levi, Messiah, Paradise, Zion, Zacharia, Dionysus, Hyperion, Midas, Niobe, Quirites. Alibi, abaci, genii, viva voce, scilicet, bona fide.

196. Strike the iron. Bide thy time. Out of sight, out of mind. The bright lime-light tries my eyes. My wife rides a bicycle, Giles's a tricycle. Is it wise, Maria, to buy rye while the price is rising? The writing liar bribed the mighty knight of the shire. Five tired Irish miners dined on fried snipe. I finally decided to beguile the time by memorizing ninety lines of Wilde's finest rhymes.

197. I was in the prime of life
 Childish for my time of life,
 Idling, trifling, shy, untidy,
 And I called a lady "lidy."

198. Mind my swine and bind my kine,
 Tie them tight with binding-twine,
 Sigh when chiding,
 Cry when hiding,
 Drive to Clive's by five to five,
 Wildly fly, arrive alive.

199. High and mighty, high and dry,
Isaac pipes a lullaby,
Self-reliant, self-admiring
Isaac blithely fifes, untiring,
Tries and spites the tuneful Nine,
He invites me, I decline.
200. Tiny Simon likes flying a kite
Of a night in the Island of Wight,
Rise higher, ay, higher
Than wire and spire!
Simon cries, when it flies, with delight.
201. Blind Silas is pining and sighing,
His wife's eyes are right. She is crying
And trying to hide
That the light is denied
To the blind one whose life is quite trying.
202. Lie silent awhile by my side,
The sky is so high and so wide;
The twilight is nigh,
I espy in thine eye¹
Thy uprightness, thy might and thy pride.

CHAPTER XI

OI, A AND I

a and i

203. Fight	fate	lie	lay
I	aye (ever)	file	fail
my	may	like	lake
ice	ace	fine	feign
brine	brain	lime	lame
die	day	pile	pale
clime	claim	bison	basin
mite	mate	whiles	Wales
wide	wade	beehive	behave

204. Hypatia. Nightingale, playwright, highway; ice-breaker, whitebait, wisacre, stage-fright, daytime, waist-high, main line, trial paper; apron file, maiden assize. Vibrate, isolate, annihilate, hibernate, plagiarize, laicize, gyrate, hydrate.

205. Stay awhile. Fine paste of pie was baked. Grace Price has a nice face. I paid the fine within five days. Mind Gray's wise sayings. Why be ashamed of slight mistakes? Try again. In '89 hay prices were higher than in later times. A stitch in time saves nine.

206. I sailed on a delightful lake,
The waves were wild, they made me shake,
I vainly sought an islet.

But James, my mate, quite wide-awake,
Divined, by grace, what line to take,
And saved my life for kindness' sake,
Behaving like a pilot.

I praised him in a lively strain,
Regaling him with dry champagne,
But James, my mate, surprised me.
For, yea, he smiled, and smiled again,
Then basely wiped me with a cane,
And striking me with might and main,
He gravely criticised me.

207. My baker was riding to Yale,
His jade was deprived of its tail,
And his trying to slay
With his pipe, made of clay,
Biting flies—was of little avail.

oi, i, a

208. Boy	by	bay	loin	line	lain
oil	aisle	ale	point	pint	paint
boil	bile	bale	loiter	lighter	later
toil	tile	tail	poise	pies	pays
troy	try	tray	Royce	rice	race
coin	kine	cane	alloy	ally	allay

209. Pray, dot your i's, boys. I'll buy oilcakes, cried Mabel noisily. I rejoice at Jane's sublime aim of life. My wife gave a toy to that nice, lame boy. Maria came by train to Croydon at the appointed time. Take the main line to

avoid delay and to save time, and join us at Ryde Station
in the Isle of Wight. I raised my voice and made a frightful
noise. The lady wiped her moist eyes.

210. Lie and loiter, lighter, later,
Idle, base, recoiling traitor!
Joy is vain, and twice the same
Tries the brains and spoils the game.

211. Stay, cried Roy,
Take my boy!
Sprightly pointing at the raiders,
Roy exclaimed: Abide invaders!
Join them, neither shake nor shy,
Rise, bright boy, and say good-bye.

212. One day I dined
In joyful mind
At Lloyd's. The pie was basted,
And though my knife was stained and soiled,
The cider stale, the whiting spoiled,
The choicest wines I tasted;
And as my steak was nicely broiled,
The dainty whitebaits spiced and oiled,
My fiver was not wasted.

213. Once a tailor who toiled in the night
Was assailed by a boisterous fright.
He was greatly annoyed,
For his life he enjoyed
If not fatally foiled in a fight.

oi, i and a in poetical or archaic words

214. Bestride thy gray
 In moist array,
Engage in broil and strife and fray.
 Upbraiding sire,
 Why chide in ire
Thy hoyden dame in toy attire?
 Spy, joyous swain,
 Coy maidens twain,
Whilst laving in the briny main.

CHAPTER XII

THE A OF "FATHER"

This vowel is like the Italian *a* of *padre* and the German of *Vater*, not far distant from the French *â* in *pâte*.

215. Sample. Example. Giraffe. France. Garage. Pyjamas. Farm-yard. Card-sharper. Koran. Sonata. Alexander. Farquhar. Clerk. Serjeant. Berkeley. Berkshire. Derby. Hertford. Glasgow. Guiana. Chicago. Java. Marble Arch. Arts and crafts. Ask a draft. A hearty laugh. A glass jar. Star and Garter. France's last chance. Alas, Charley's aunt masks her hard heart. I can't start in the dark. I shan't. I'd rather pass the mark. Barker's remark alarmed Master Carton. Amen.

216. Hark! hard masters, starving clerks,
 Dancing, laughing, carve half larks.

Father, darling, ask Mark's pardon.
Paths in Martha's Derby garden.
Calves in carts; are sparkling stars
Rather farther, mar the tars.
Quaff a glass with staunch commanders,
Dance, apache, in bars of Flanders,
Cast the last nasty cards,
March past larger masts and yards,
Asking vases, scarfs, cigars,
Branches, plants and brass guitars.
Tardy cars and marvellous casks,
Part and parcel, lasting tasks.

CHAPTER XIII

THE A OF "SAW"

This sound is like the *o* of *sore* without its final murmur.
It is heard in:

217. Law, all, water, morning, glory, more, door, broad,
ought, Magdalen (in, "Magdalen College," Oxford and
Cambridge), sport, horse, towards, pour, saunter, Esau,
Salisbury, Bengal, Arkansas.

Pronounce the following pairs:

218. awe—oar	pawed—poured
daw—door	flaw—floor
caught—court	saw—sore
caws—cores	gnaw—nor
maw—more	pshaw—shore

219. The portly porter Had but one daughter For her he sawed A sort of board. His son lived shorter. He died in water. Lord Harcourt bought Some good old port,	He bought a storeful, Was not it awful? And while he talked It was uncorked. And though his walk Was rather short, A silver fork Was promptly bought.
--	--

220. I saw the caw Before the door One morning; It soared And cawed— You're yawning! And with his sword The portly lord, Not overawed, The cord had sawed, While lions roared. The fawn Was born, Miss Maud Was bored, Of course: The sauce Was poured Among the corn, Before the lawn.	Put on the floor The hat of straw Which you have worn From early dawn. After a pause He left his oars And went ashore In fear and awe, And, lost in thought, He took some port, Before The caw Had cawed Above the ford, And what is more, Against the law. Sir Walter Raleigh Was tried so sorely, And turning towards us The former lauds us.
--	--

A shortened *aw*-sound, not unlike the *o* of *not*, is represented

by *a* after *w*, *wh* and *qu*: *wasp*, *what*, *quarrel*. The following pairs are allowable rhymes:

221. Warren—foreign, swans—bronze, warn—thorn,
squash—bosh, wallow—hollow, quarry—sorry, swamp—
pomp, war—nor, want—font.

CHAPTER XIV

THE E OF "ME"

This is a diphthong, the elements of which (*i-i*) should be distinctly heard. It is akin to German *ie* of *Lied*, only longer.

222. He feels the breeze, he sees these bees,
And kneels with ease beneath three trees.
Leave me! The sea is three feet deep,
The seething deep sea teems with eels,
Beneath these seas free dreams she feels,
We meet thee screaming, see thee weep.

223.

She leaves the needle, leaps and flees to Stephen,
Chagrin she feels, and screams: sixteen seems even!
Police of Rheims need freedom's glee. Steal clean valises,
Ye sneaking thieves! eat meal, cream, beans, these eels
and sweet peas.
Each peach she sees, a piece of green cheese,
She really seems to read three magazines when she
pleases.
Grief's brief relief! seize these green leaves of trees,
squeeze.

Learn this short story by heart. It contains nearly all words in which *i* has this sound.

224. It was a unique caprice of the czarina, when fatigued with intrigue, scarlatina, mosquitoes and chagrin, to pique the police, in an automobile, an antique machine, with vaseline in a valise in the ravine, playing a pibroch on the concertina, eating a tangerine (mandarin) and a sardine, as you read in the Marine's magazine.

CHAPTER XV

THE I OF "IN"

This sound is not far from the *e* of *me*, but it is a monophthong, very short. Pronounce it as crisply as possible. It is very like the German *i* of *Sinn*.

225. This is Prism's pin. Miss Prism is sitting, in the window sill, busily knitting. Six thick thistle-sticks. Kit is quickly winning innings in this list. Isn't this mist thick? It is, skin-flint, lick-spittle. Will-o'-the-wisp. Bring the wings of a finch, the skin of a pig, the gills of the ink-fish in a silver dish, women, everything within an inch of the kitchen. Sit still, Swiss tinsmith, whispering, whistling indistinctly. Invincible Prince, fit little Cinderella's slipper on. Fill this tin with Britain's crispest biscuits.

226. Pretty, women, threepence, fivepence, goats, England, English, Theobald, Teignmouth.

227. Glimpses of Greenwich,
 A trim English village,
 Jim, listen a minute,
 This building is in it.
 It's prettily written
 In Islington, Britain.

228. Is simplicity sin? And frigidity, timidity, indignity,
incivility, invincibility, inimitability, indivisibility, irre-
sistibility?

229. To the midship rigging clinging
 Pink winged finches sing,
 With swift skipping quickly bringing,
 —Winter's finished—spring.
 Stingy Billy clicks his fingers,
 Picking pips with skill,
 In his fingers shilling lingers,
 Still he drinks his fill.
 Willy whips the kicking filly,
 Thinks of missing links,
 Pinching little wrists is silly,
 Fill with pitch rifts, chinks.
 Filthy insect sits in thicket,
 Wring its stings, Dick, quick, quick, kick it.

230. This, Miss Smith, is the wittiest thing
 Which Miss Griffith will wittily sing.
 And we listening sit
 In the midst, when the pit
 With Miss Griffith's shrill singing will ring.

231. Mrs. Dickens's mittens will shrink,
Still this frill will still fit, Sis, I think.
Pickled milk is then spilt
In her silk trimmed with gilt,
In the kitchen the sinner will sink.
232. Mr. Kipling is clipping a ticket,
Mr. Pickwick is mimicking cricket.
If he quickly begins,
In a minute he wins
With his grinning and kicking the wicket.
233. Little fiddler is wicked and bitter,
When finches hiss, whistle and twitter.
At the twiddling rich things
In his glittering rings
With dimpled chins twin sisters titter.

CHAPTER XVI

THE ENDING -Y

This sound is intermediate between the *e* of *ten*, and the *i* of *tin*, *Willy*. First say *Weelih*, then shorten the first sound, but let the difference between *i* and *y* be distinctly heard, the latter being the shorter. Note that *-ay* of *Sunday*, etc., has this sound.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 234. Silly Willy | Silly Billy |
| Felt so chilly | Sings so shrilly. |
| Willy-nilly. | Busy Lizzy, |

Ground is hilly,
Whinny, filly!
Filly's frisky,
Isn't it risky?
Sip this whisky,
Tricky Gypsy,
Little tipsy,
Fickle kiddy,
Are you giddy?

Pick a lily.
Piccadilly,
In this city,
What a pity!
Pretty Kitty,
You're so witty,
Sing your witty, gritty ditty.
Mrs. Grundy comes on Sunday,
Not on Monday.

CHAPTER XVII

THE O OF "NOT"

The tongue is drawn back and lies low. The sound is unknown in French and in German. It is more like the *a* of *G. Falke* than like the *o* of *Volk*. The same sound, produced by the beat of a clock, is represented in English by *tock*, in German by *tack*.

235. Bronze, not, frog, proxy, monster, pocket, stock-jobber, jog-trot, Gloucester.

236. Beyond the rocks. Chock-a-block. Scot and lot. The cock stops on top of the cottage. Poll got dolls from Tom. Tock-tock, says the clock. Ronald got a lot of blots on his smock frock.

237. Sausage, cauliflower, ya(ch)t, laurel.

238. Drop the block and lock the box,
Rob a stock and stop the clocks.
Rotten are the tops of pods,
Snobs are shocked, but what's the odds?
Polly's frock got on the top,
Oddly nods the snobbish fop.
Not a fox the Scotchman shot,
Chop a lobster in the pot.
Johnny Fox got fond of hock,
Knock the doctor off the rock.
Stop the dogs and hogs, sot, follow,
Hop in copse beyond the hollow.

Especially before *m*, *ng* and *n* the *o*-sound is very much like the *a*-sound of *G. matt*.

239. Strong Tom came along from Hongkong,
He romped with some pomp to a song,
A don with a prong,
Struck a gong in a throng,
But the song was too long, and all wrong.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE O OF "GO"

This diphthong is a compound of the pure *o*-vowel and the *oo* of *good*. In vulgar pronunciation the first element is often heard as the *ah* of *father*.

240. Don't throw those stones. The coaxing Pole sold soap. Poke the smouldering glowing coals: so cosy is Jones's home. Toes over the sole. So, so! Polo in Soho, Ho(l)born and Gro(s)venor postponed. Tow the boat to Dover. Ho(l)mes. Forecastle (focsl). Stow old oak poles in the hold. Sowed oats won't grow, if you don't hoe and mow. Crusoe roasted bloaters on a smoking stove. The old fo(l)k at home. Lo! Behold Job's holy abode.

241. The soldier roams, though low are moats,
And goes for does and roes and goats.
He knows no bold, no boasting notes,
 Only spoke low and slowly,
By roving ghosts is told of home,
Of cosy home, though Poe must roam
And rove; oh! Rose's brooch and comb,
 And moulds of roly-poly!
How cold it grows, it blows and snows,
 He groans and rolls on a stone,
Unfolds his clothes, and moaning throws
On his throat and his nose, and his frozen toes,
 Some stolen Eau de Cologne.

242. Over bolsters boatswains choke,
 Row those boats in rolling motion,
Roasting clover, dough and yo(l)k,
 Close to the coast of the foaming ocean.

243. Joe hopes to go over to Rome.
So Joe Jones, old slow-coach, goes home.
 Noble Rose sews Joe's clothes,
Sews those stoles, sews mauve bows,
So Joe goes—lo! beholds Rome's old dome.

CHAPTER XIX

THE U OF "BUT"

This is the shortened *ah* of *father*.

244. My youngest son
Doesn't love one bun,
But does love mustard,
Nuts, plums and custard,
Ducks, plovers, doves,
And Russian gloves.
Rum customers come,
Some humbugs hum.
One's tongue isn't dumb.
Stuck-up Miss Bumble,
Does Douglas grumble,
When, struck, you stumble?
It's fun to tumble.
One must not touch
The Dutch too much,
They're struggling, troubling,
Their money doubling.
Blood and thunder,
Thud and blunder.
The southern sun
Had just begun,
In Southwark, Southwell,
Where puppies cuddle.
A sudden thud,
A flood of blood,

Thus gushing comes
From Rudyard's thumbs.
Some one, a plumber,
A rough newcomer,
A Prussian drummer,
Cuts musty crumbs,
For twopence hums,
Scrubs dull tubs, funnels,
Pumps, rowlocks, gunwales.
Punning Punch and funny Puck,
Nutty brothers, run amuck.
Cut, buttercups, dunce, &
Rush, numbskull, but once,
Thus pluck honey-suckle,
Shun tuft-hunters, chuckle,
Brush rubbing a scuttle,
Just, trusty and subtle,
As snug as a bug in a rug.
Just tug some luggage,
Up, up, to Dulwich.
Shut up in dungeon,
In bustling London.
Rough and tough
And up-to-snuff.
A dusty 'bus, bucket,
Buck up, sluggard, chuck it!
Munching buns, unjust but comely,
Blushing runs Augusta Cholmondeley.

CHAPTER XX

THE U OF "PUT" AND THAT OF "TUNE"

Only the second is a diphthong, twice as long as the other.
For both keep your lips flat, never round them.

(a) *Short*

245. *Bush, bushel, bulwark, bullion, bullet, bulletin, bulrush, pulpit, buffet, cushion, pulley, pullet, sugar. Wood, neighbourhood, look, brook, soot, broom, mushroom, bosom.*

246. *Worcester, Woolwich, Wolseley, Boleyn, Bolingbroke, Bulwer, Buddha, Fulton, Fuller, Fulham, Pullman.*

247. *Good butcher, a wolf took the bull,
Cook, woman, a pudding, and pull.
 By hook or by crook
 In a nook with a book,
Put worsted in cushions and wool.*

(b) *Long*

248. *Do, whose, tomb, cartoon, shoe, you, route, use, scruple, rebuke, suit, juice, attitude, feud, deuce, dew, view, manoeuvre, in lieu of. Food, tool, goose, shoot.*

249. *Munich, Hughes, Eugene, Zeus, Le Queux; Brougham, Colquhoun, Cowper, Buchanan, Ilfracombe.*

250. *Moved by gloom the brute grew frugal,
Stupid pupils blew the bugle,*

Wounded, bruised and brooding youth,
Do you truly prove the truth?
Tutors, soothed by music's beauty,
Fool mute dukes, and do your duty,
Schooner, cruiser, new canoe,
Soon it's two to two. Adieu.

(c) *Short and long alternately*

251. Should you prove, my good youth, if you could,
The use of a stool in a hood?
Of a rook on a roof,
Or a mule's foot with hoof?
Good duke, once in a blue moon you would.

252. The fool stood aloof in his boots,
Shook the soup, put some sugar on roots,
Took the book to the school,
Pulled a cube and a rule
Through the room full of tunes of two flutes.

CHAPTER XXI

THE OU OF "OUT"

This is a compound of the *a* of *father* (shortened) and the *u* of *put*.

253. A sow with its snout out of the cowhouse, gave a loud sound. I can't allow a cow outside the cowhouse, shouted Brown, ploughing the ground in the cloudy

mountains. Scouts and touts in blouses and trousers in our down-town house, south of Cowes.

254. A mouse in the outhouse! shouted Mrs. Lowther with pouting mouth. How the bounding hounds howl and growl at the owls in the round tower! The renowned clown in his blouse and gown came down to our town for a thousand crowns bowing with profound bows before the astounded crowd of giaours. I found out that grouse and other fowl are drowned, but how about trout? What's the row about, now, proud Macleod?

255. Loud, out of Brown's house came a sound,
Where flowers sprout out of the ground:
The man about town,
Stout, powdered proud Brown,
Shouted out that our cow had been drowned.

CHAPTER XXII

W

The lips and the tongue have the same position as in *u* of *tune*; the lips are rounded. This sound is heard in French *oui, bois*, etc. Neglecting the *u*-sound we utter the consonant *v* instead of *w*, which is a well-known vulgarism. You remember Sam Weller's father saying: "Mrs. Veller passed a good night," and "The last vun." In Standard English *wh* and *w* sound alike, except in case of emphasis. *Wh* then has the sound *h-w*, e.g. in the exclamation "What!" In Scottish the distinction is preserved.

256. Wave, week, wick. Quake, queen, quib. Swain, sweep, swine. Squat, squeeze, squire. Twine, tweed, twist. Once, twice, anguish.

257. War-worn, wide-awake, ware-wire, watch-word, wax-work, worm-wood, well-wisher, were-wolf, whirlwind, wig-wam.

258. Wells, Walker, Wakefield, Wallace, Washington, Wilson, Webster, Walt Whitman, Wapping, Worcester, Winnipeg, Wordsworth, Wedgewood.

259. We wondered where William went while we were away. What war was won when Wolfram was wending his way westward? Withdraw, wonderful widow-bewitched, whisking away like will-o'-wisps in windy weather. Beware of wooden dwellings with white-washed walls. What with weariness, what with the warmth the queen swooned. We were well acquainted with the Swedish language. Once twenty Swiss woodmen swam in the swashing water. Where there is a will, there is a way. The weakest went to the wall. How much wood would the woodchuck chuck, if the woodchuck would chuck wood?

260. What wayward, wilful, wily ward,
 With worldly women wildly squandering,
 Will walk in wood or waste or sward,
 When wondrous wizard's wives are wandering?
 Woe worth a wicked world of swells!
 Why would weird witches whisper waking,
 When woodbines wither, water wells,
 While widowed warriors wassail, quaking?

261. Squinting sweetheart, swift and swindling,
Swear quite quickly where you were,
When wan, wizened dwarfs were dwindling;
Quaintly questioned, will you swear?
262. Swim away with a will,
Win a quid with a quill,
While a well-wisher watches a wick;
Wear, o widow, wear weeds
At a wedding of Swedes,
But beware of the wolf, and be quick!

CHAPTER XXIII

F—V, S—Z

These consonants, even when initial, are not always distinguished clearly enough. Avoid this mistake.

263. <i>few</i>	<i>view</i>		<i>feign</i>	<i>vain</i>
<i>ferry</i>	<i>very</i>		<i>fast</i>	<i>vast</i>
<i>fine</i>	<i>vine</i>		<i>fault</i>	<i>vault</i>
<i>fowl</i>	<i>vowel</i>		<i>feel</i>	<i>veal</i>
<i>first</i>	<i>versed</i>		<i>fail</i>	<i>veil</i>
<i>fire</i>	<i>via</i>		<i>file</i>	<i>vile</i>

264. Very *far*, very *fine*,
Vice and *folly*, leafy *vine*.

265. *Folly*—*volley*; *van*—*fan*; *fault*—*vault*; *figure*—*vigour*. I *fear* to *veer*. *Fender*—*vendor*: *fawn*—*Vaughan*; in

fight—invite. The leafy violets filled the valley. Infested foe, invest it, vote.

266. *Fifty, vivid, fictive victims*
 Fast in vast vaults fought for gain.
 Fickle vicars, various fairies,
 Finish venison, faint in vain.
 Vaughan's young fawn is very merry,
 Fie! count, viscount, five fine vines.
 Vaughan falls in this very ferry,
 With his father's vase and lines.

Especially before *y* or *w* careless speakers are inclined to voice the *f*, to pronounce it like *v*. Don't—except in *nephew*.

267. *If we do. Doff your hat. A half year. A stiff wind. A deaf youth. The wharf yard. A gruff welcome. The mastiff yelped. His life was sad. A safe way. If you laugh, youngster, I'll cuff you.*

The same mistake is often made in *s* before *y*. Here is a mixed exercise:

268. *Yes, yes, Miss White, guess well,*
 Grace Young, rough work, safe warning.
 Nice yacht, off York, gruff yell,
 If you this once will tell,
 Place William there, cease yawning.

CHAPTER XXIV

K, T, P

These letters are always followed by a slight puff of breath: *k-h-ing*, *k-h-ome*, *k-h-ey* (king, come, key), *t-h-en*, *t-h-ake*, *t-h-urf* (ten, take, turf), *p-h-ain*, *p-h-ost*, *p-h-ut* (pain, post, put).

269. Tick-tock, says the **kitchen time-piece**. Take a **cup** of **coffee** and a **piece** of **pop-corn**. Topsy **passed** the **tennis-court**. Pete **can** tell. Tiny **kittens** **purr**. Come, **put** the **time-table** and a **pack** of **cards** on the **card-table**. Cut **ten** **peaches** and a **pumpkin**. Catch the **cable-car**. **Purchase** **Pope's** **poems**. Take **two** **tickets** for the tube to **Tottenham Court Park**. A taxi, **page!**

270. **Kitty** took a cup of coffee,
 A **comic** tale is told.
 Tiny **Tim** is keen on toffee,
 For **Tommy** caught a cold.
 Take to **Popocatepetle**
 Curry-comb and **patty** **kettle**;
 Peelers **pussyfoot**, cook a **pie**,
 Tops and **petticoats**, **kick** and **tie**.

271. **Captain** **Cuttle**, talk to **tip-top** skipper.
 Cocks were **cackling**, **kitchen** **timepiece** **ticked**.
 Peter **Piper** **picked** a **peck** of **pepper**,
 Where's the **peck** of **pepper** **Peter** **picked**?

CHAPTER XXV

-LF, -LK, -LP

A not uncommon mistake is the insertion of a murmured sound between these letters. Avoid saying *selluf* instead of *self*. Make it brisk, short, monosyllabic.

272. Self, shelf, gulf, twelfth, silk, film, bulb, scalp, alp, alb, palp, ilk, pelf, kelp, whelk, magilp.

273. Twelve elks, twelve wolves gulp milk on shelves,
Revolve silk valves, help, help yourselves,
The twelfth whelp yelps; resolve to sulk,
Delve, salve, dissolve of pulp the bulk.
Quilp skulks, Quilp yelps, Quilp overwhelms,
Quilp's qualms, Quilp bilks; bulbs, helms, hulks,
 *realms.

CHAPTER XXVI

SILENT VOWELS

In unstressed endings a weak vowel between strong consonants is often overwhelmed by them so as to be silenced. Thus disyllables actually become monosyllables: *Heav'n, ev'n*, as appears from the rhythm in such lines as:

“O luxury, thou cursed by *Heaven's* decree.”

Goldsmith

“*Even* rich men, brave by nature, taint the air”

Wordsworth

It requires some practice to bring the two consonants close together.

274. **Fatl** (fatal), **flanl** (flannel), **finl** (final), **nasl** (nasal), **rascl** (rascal), **travl** (travel), **mortls** (mortals), **chapls** (chapels), **weasls** (weasels), **beautifl** (beautiful), **dreadfl** (dreadful), **difficlt** (difficult).

275. **Mutn** (mutton), **beatn** (beaten), **faln** (fallen), **prsn** (prison), **seasn** (season), **masn** (mason), **reckn** (reckon), **takn** (taken), **dragñ** (dragon), **ofn** (often, orphan), **heavn** (heaven), **weapn** (weapon), **opn** (open), **cousn** (cousin), **dozn** (dozen).

276. **Gardns** (gardens), **certnly** (certainly), **pheasnts** (pheasants), **importnt** (important), **sudnly** (suddenly), **masnry** (masonry), **hapnd** (happened), **husbnds** (husbands).

277. **Couldnt**, **wouldnt**, **shouldnt**, **didnt**, **neednt**, **hadnt**.

278. **Britn** (Britain), **Brightn** (Brighton), **Arnld** (Arnold), **Washingtn** (Washington), **Newtn** (Newton), **Lincn** (Lincoln), **Littlingtn** (Littlington), **Wimbldn** (Wimbledon), **Englnd** (England).

On the other hand the two syllables in words like *quiet*, *idea*, are not seldom reduced to one. Avoid this and let

there be an audible difference between *quite* and *quiet*,
rune and *ruin*.

279. Qui-**et**, ru-**in**, Bru-**in**, ide-**a**, po-**em**, funni-**est**,
twenti-**eth**, thirti-**eth**, forti-**eth**, go-**eth**, satisfi-**eth**, la-**ity**,
intu-**itively**.

Read very slowly and rhythmically:

280. "He had no **ide-a** to find you; were *you in*?"
"I was, on the **thirti-eth**; thinking of **ru-in**,
And not in the **happi-est** mood, but quite **qui-et**,
My hearth was a **po-em**, and pussy sat by it."

CHAPTER XXVII

WEAK ENDINGS

281. <i>Ace</i> , menace, furnace.	<i>Day</i> , Sunday, holiday.
<i>Face</i> , preface, surface.	<i>Ways</i> , always.
<i>Lace</i> , palace, solace.	<i>Fast</i> , breakfast, steadfast.
<i>Age</i> , village, assemblage, equipage.	<i>Fort</i> , effort, comfort.
<i>Gage</i> , luggage, mortgage.	<i>Ford</i> , Oxford, Stratford.
<i>Rage</i> , umbrage, suffrage.	<i>Board</i> , cupboard, starboard.
<i>Sage</i> , message, passage.	<i>Ward</i> , forward, Edward.
<i>Chase</i> , purchase.	<i>Yard</i> , vineyard, Rudyard.
<i>Bate</i> , reprobate.	<i>Guard</i> , blackguard.
<i>Date</i> , candidate.	<i>Herd</i> , shepherd.
<i>Gate</i> , legate, frigate.	<i>Head</i> , forehead.
Reigate.	<i>Chief</i> , handkerchief.
	<i>Born</i> , stubborn, Holborn.

<i>Kate</i> , delicate, duplicate	<i>Stone</i> , Folkestone,
<i>Late</i> , prelate, chocolate.	Gladstone.
<i>Mate</i> , climate, intimate.	<i>Come</i> , welcome.
<i>Rate</i> , separate, curate.	<i>Pence</i> , twopence.
<i>Man</i> , madman, gentleman, woman, sportsman, Englishman.	<i>Worth</i> , pennyworth.
<i>Band</i> , husband.	<i>Pose</i> , purpose.
<i>Wife</i> , housewife (<i>huzif</i>).	<i>Folk</i> , Suffolk, Norfolk.
<i>Coat</i> , waistcoat.	<i>Mouth</i> , Plymouth,
<i>Scot</i> , wainscot.	Portsmouth.
<i>Land</i> , England, highland.	<i>One</i> , young one.
	<i>Shire</i> , Yorkshire.
	<i>Most</i> , Topmost.

282. Senate, fortunate, private, adequate, affectionate, immediate, passionate, fountain, mountain, captain, foreign, sovereign, mustard, orchard, forecastle, gunwale, rowlock, boatswain (*bōsn*), studdingsail (*stunsl*), half-pennyworth (sometimes: *hāpəth*).

283. Boleyn (*būlin*), Marlborough (*mawlbərə*), Marshall (*māshl*), Saint John (*sīngn*), Cholmondeley (*chūmlī*), Pontrefract (*pūmfrīt*), Belvoir (*bēvə*), Beauchamp (*bēchm*), Beaulieu (*būli*), Leveson-Gower (*lūsngaw*), Lincoln (*līnkŋ*), Southwell (*sūthl*), Ruthwell (locally: *rīvel*), Southwark (*sūthek*), Milngavie (*mīlgi*), Chisholm (*chīsm*).

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE DROPPING OF THE H

A very common blunder in cockney speech is the dropping of the *h*'s. It might rather be called "shifting," as the

dropped letter is generally picked up, and attached to another word beginning with a vowel, to make good the loss: "Hi 'ave." Thus, on hearing your unphonetical guide mention the state-room of an ancient castle, you may after a while get aware that he is referring to your portable wrapper! But, simple as the process may seem, a mere exhalation, many people have some trouble in producing the letter, especially the French. This is due to the fact that in French it is never pronounced. The so-called aspirate *h* only denotes that there must be no "liaison," *l'homme*, but *le Hollandais*. Now in English, in slow and deliberate speech initial *h* is never silent, except in *heir*, *hour* and *honest*. In the following exercises all *h*'s must be sounded.

284. Ail—**h**ail, am—**h**am, arbour—**h**arbour, air—**h**are, arm—**h**arm, arrow—**h**arrow, art—**h**earth, aye—**h**ey, eel—**h**eal, ear—**h**ear, edge—**h**edge, I—**h**igh, oaks—**h**oax, owl—**h**owl, earl—**h**url. Old **h**all—**h**old-all.

285. **H**ale and **h**earty, **h**ard-**h**earted, **h**aphazard, **h**ot-house, **h**olly**h**ock, **h**are and **h**ounds, **h**ead and **h**eels, **h**um and **h**aw, **h**ard of **h**earing, **H**igh **H**olborn, **H**erne **H**ill, **H**ampstead **H**eath, the **H**oly of the **H**olies.

286. Hit it **h**ard with **h**eavy **h**ammers, **H**enry. **H**i, **h**old! **H**ush, **h**ush! **H**arold **h**as a **h**eadache, **H**eaven **h**elp him! **H**umphry **h**id a **h**orrible **h**ornet in the **h**ollow of his **h**and.

287. **H**apless **H**elen **h**ung her **h**ead,
 Hughes **h**ad **h**ead her **h**usband **h**ollo
 To the **h**ounds and **h**awks she **h**red.
 Hover **h**igh and **h**igher, **h**swallow.

It must be added, however, that in rapid speech and ordinary conversation Standard English allows the dropping of the *h* of certain words, when they occur in an unstressed position, e.g.: *I gave 'im a book*, but *I gave the book to **h**im*, not to *her*.

CHAPTER XXIX

THE DROPPING OF THE G

Careless people sometimes drop their *g*'s, saying *nothin*, *doin*, instead of *nothing*, *doing*; or rather they change *ng* into *n*, for *ng* has not the *n*-sound. "What are you *talkin* about? Where are you *goin*? Barkis is *willin*." There is a famous pun on this vulgarism: What is the richest country? Ireland, because its capital is always Dublin (doubling). But as *king*, *sing*, *ring*, etc., are never pronounced as *kin*, *sin*, *rin*, etc., the following exercise may teach those careless people to drop their dropping.

288. O speaking, walking king,
 With strength increasing sing,
 Stop staring, wearing rings,
 For nothing smoothing things.
The shilling lingers, he laughing fingers
 The missing link.
O singeing Jingo, in puzzling lingo
 Hissing sink,
And scoring innings, beginning winnings,
 Sinning shrink

From beating tinkers and breathing thinkers,
This morning English, this evening ink.
The king of birds high singing swings
In hovering rings on growing wings.

CHAPTER XXX

DICTATIONS

The use of these dictations is obvious; both reader and writer may learn by them. Number the sentences. When finished, examine the writing. Which is responsible for mistakes?

289. Fours, thighs, lad, bass, grows, seethe. 2. Fourth, size, led, bathe, gross, seethes. 3. Force, scythe, let, bays, growth, seas. 4. Fourths, scythes, lit, bathes, growths, cease.

290. The wizard leaves. 2. The withered leaves. 3. His houses closed. 4. His house is closed. 5. Disappearance. 6. This appearance. 7. I send a cap. 8. I sent a cab. 9. This count is unknown. 10. Discount is unknown. 11. D's are simple symbols. 12. These are simple thimbles.

291. The trees are thick. 2. The threes are thick. 3. The trees are sick. 4. Does are rising. 5. Those are rising. 6. Those are writhing. 7. We rode home with the men behind us. 8. We wrote home with the man behind us. 9. We

wrote home with the men behind us. 10. We rode home with the man behind us. 11. Jews, choose joking juice. 12. Choose, Jews, choking, juice. 13. Choose, juice, joking Jews. 14. Jews choose choking juice.

CHAPTER XXXI

RECAPITULATORY EXERCISES

These exercises full of jaw-breakers and tongue-twisters should be done as the musician does his "*Études*," first very slowly (*adagio*), then in the time of ordinary conversation (*allegro*), and the third time as quick as you can manage to rattle them off without stumbling (*presto*).

292. Rests, lasts, thirsts. Probably. Unusual. Sponges. Ghost stories. Neuralgia. Its charms. Jilt, chilled. Beasts, masts, last things. Each changed. Searched, attached, fixed, bleached, stretched, switched. English sailors. Welsh slang. Strengthened and refreshed, I arranged the jingling chains. The States-General suggested a rather strange stratagem. John should cherish just such wishes. Chance changed Jane's chains. Jews choose juice. Poorer rather than richer. She says she shall sell seashells. He thrusts his fists against those posts. He sends his best respects to you. A string is a thick thread, and a thread is a thin string. This gentleman strings Slazenger's tennis rackets, and has them restrung at Booth's. Throw straw through thatched roofs, Algernon. Three pieces of cheap Cheshire cheese. Scotch students' songs. Elisabeth's

vicissitudes. Wash things up thoroughly, Edith, and then use this dish-cloth. Change for Fenchurch Street Station and Portsmouth Junction. Ethel Wrigglesworth's wrath struck me.

293. I'm afraid I've to apologize, I'm very sorry I'm late. I'm right for Threadneedle Street and the Exchange, am I not? Just put textbooks in desks, now. They seem to enjoy themselves immensely. What's your chief object in life, I sh'd like to know. Are these attitudes and gestures those of a gentleman? Each child shows some sure signs of its future position. Her inimitable and matchless rendering of the piece is beyond description. Watch the distinguished youth's progress, George. The States-General used to jump to conclusions. In the revolutionary war the English established numerous new settlements. A passage in the Apology of the Prince of Orange shows he was largely remunerated. Just think, Charles, of the jolly time James and Arthur used to have together with Richard and George Smith's brother-in-law. What's the use of using such sweet words? The scorching June sun shone on hyacinths, honeysuckle and nasturtium. There, that dusky spot beneath thee, that is England; there she lies.

294. Jane said she should see such thoroughly changed churches, John. With furious gesticulations he showed his uncontrollable wrath to these three fugitives. They constantly changed seats in confusion, and involuntarily blushed from sheer bashfulness and childishness. Should you have imagined that John should ever have given so much thought to his wretched wife's inferior position? In a paroxysm of rage the mischievous German major-

general snatched up a cudgel and three two-edged knives. Such abridgements are absolutely necessary to study the difficulties of the Swedish language and other subjects. After registering those contradictory messages, he suddenly shut his desk with a loud crash and rushed upstairs to refresh himself with some gingerbeer. The present generation shows a creditable amount of seriousness and sound judgment. Without changing his attitude the unscrupulous elocutionist apologetically uttered the most objectionable ejaculations, in the archduchess's presence. Nothing but death shall henceforth sever them.

295. A disreputable-looking village cur of a nondescript breed reminded us of the approaching danger and produced a considerable perturbation and agitation of mind. The cut-throat's thriftiness was most unsatisfactorily explained. In the greatest confusion he suddenly changed the subject and at length managed to give me a chance of escaping through a door which happened to stand ajar. The four other constables were attentively searching this well-proportioned but insufficiently furnished apartment. With unchangeable imperturbability the duchess threatened the rather too communicative magistrates to deliver them up to the justice. They enthusiastically abolished slavery, which was unfortunately ascribed to such absurd motives as exaggerated religious fear of an unknown futurity. The adroit ventriloquists managed to cure their contemporaries, a dignitary, and a supernumerary, of rheumatism by means of electromechanism.

296. Let such teach others who themselves excel. The lines, though touched but faintly, are drawn right. It's thus

the mercury of man is fixed, strong grows the virtue with his nature mixed. He knew of wits an undistinguished race, who first his judgments asked and then a place. Here dukes and butchers joined to wreath Ruth's crown. Strange graces still, and stranger flights she has. Now conscience chills her, and now passion burns, and atheism and religion take their turns. Whoever feels such passion in its strength, must live within the very light and air of courteous usages, refined by art. It was our occupation to observe such objects as the waves had tossed ashore: feather, or leaf, or weed, or withered bough, each on each other heaped, along the line of the dry wreck. How shall I trace the change, how bear to tell that he broke faith with those whom he had laid in earth's dark chambers with a Christian's hope. The faithful harp shall praise thee. Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath, hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.

297. Notwithstanding his antagonist's energetic objection and contrary disposition, he continued studying arithmetic, geography, psychology and state institutions conscientiously and judiciously. These precious cabbages and other delicious vegetables with suspicious looking greenish leaves are exceptionally nutritious, unless they may prove injurious to one's health through verdigris. The exasperating stinginess of the church authorities, who indiscriminately chose to avail themselves of the questionable position of their unscrupulous chief, was just unaccountable to a man of such cheerful disposition as Arthur Jones's brother. The incorrigibility of the Russian legislative body as to the inaccessibility of their secret assemblies was figuratively speaking a psychological puzzle which required all the

judge's ingenuity to account for. Richard Smith's mother-in-law had fortunately read and re-read something regarding the brave soldiers' deaths.

298. One should not judge of such things, disapproving indiscriminately of the stranger's peculiarities. The inevitable consequences of the miserable youth's extravagance were set forth with indisputable indefatigability. The indistinctness of Charles's proposition strangely contrasted with the perspicuity and persuasiveness of Ruth's words. Seeing how indiscriminately misery and wealth were distributed, the moralists had no trouble in finding the strongest arguments for a future state. Mr. Bernard Girth discovered that the cupboard was damp and empty, and immediately ordered the doors of the larder to be forced by the policemen. With unmistakable gestures of astonishment and disgust, they saw the unfortunate youth's body hanging perpendicularly from the thatched roof of the village smithy. Without any magnanimity to his allies, and superstitiously voracious, he deliberately committed the most despicable act on record, as we learn from innumerable elucidatory ethnological notes.

299. Strengthened and refreshed John Booth's friend
Chuckling joins those jingling chains,
Ruth's neuralgia's worse through reading
Smith's three toasts in Swedish trains.
This distinguished youth's great progress
Changed Prince George's genial thoughts.
Strange ventriloquists, elocutionists,
Rough Welsh sailors grudged in ports.

Roaring brethren's charming gestures,
Heathenish Judith's mirth, wrath, truth
Wordsworth snatched three dirty trees or
Thirty-three trees, thriving youth.

APPENDIX I

TH, L, A, I IN THE BIBLE AND IN POETRY

300. Behold, **thou** shalt call a nation **that thou** knowest not, and nations **that** knew not **thee** shall run unto **thee** because of **the** Lord **thy** God, and for **the** Holy One of Israel; cause for he hath glorified **thee**.—My **thoughts** are not **thy thoughts**, neither are my ways **thy** ways, saith **the** Lord. For as **the** heavens are higher **than the** earth, so are my ways higher **than thy** ways, and my **thoughts, than thy thoughts**. For as **the** rain cometh down, and **the** snow from heaven, and returneth not **thither**, but watereth **the** earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, **that** it may give seed to **the** sower, and bread to **the** eater; so shall my word be **that** goeth forth out of my mouth.—He **that** speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness. He **that** keepeth his mouth, keepeth his life. **The** soul of **the** sluggard desireth, and hath nothing. He **that** spareth his rod hateth his son, but he **that** loveth him chasteneth him betimes. A wrathful man stirreth up strife, but he **that** is slow to anger, appeaseth strife. A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish man despiseth his mother. And he humbled **thee**, and suffered **thee** to hunger, and fed **thee with** manna, which **thou** knowest not, neither did **thy** fathers know; **that** he might make **thee** know **that** man doth not live by bread only, but by every word **that** proceedeth out of **the** mouth of **the** Lord doth man live. **Thou** shalt consider in **thine** heart **that** as a man chasteneth his son, so **the** Lord **thy** God chasteneth **thee**. He **that** wasteth his father and chaseth his mother, causeth shame and bringeth reproach.

The Bible

301. He does not know **that** sickening **thirst**
That sands one's **throat**, before
The hangman **with** his gardener's gloves
Slips **through the** padded door,
And binds one **with three** leathern **thongs**,
That the throat may **thirst** no more.

Wilde

302. **Those** parts of **thee that the** world's eye doth view,
Want **nothing that the** thought of hearts can mend;
All tongues, **the** voice of souls, give **thee that** due,
Uttering bare **truth**, even so as foes commend.
Thine outward **thus with** outward praise is crowned;
But **those** same tongues **that** give **thee** so **thine** own,
In **other** accents do **this** praise confound,
By seeing **farther than the** eye has shown.
They look into **the** beauty of **thy** mind,
And **that**, in guess, **they** measure by **thy** deeds;
Then, churls, **their** thoughts, **although their** eyes were
kind,
To **thy** fair flower add **the** rank smell of weeds:
But why **thy** odour matcheth not **thy** show,
The solve is **this, that thou** dost common grow.

Shakespeare

303. Hear the sledges with the bells—
Silver bells,
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight:

Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme
To the tintinnabulation that so musically swells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells—
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.

Poe

304. Methought I saw my late espoused saint
Brought to me like Alcestis from the grave,
Whom Jove's great son to her glad husband gave,
Rescued from Death by force, though pale and
faint.
Mine, as whom washed from spot of child-bed taint
Purification in the Old Law did save,
And such as yet once more I trust to have
Full sight of her in Heaven without restraint,
Came vested all in white, pure as her mind.
Her face was veiled; yet to my fancied sight
Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person shined
So clear as in no face with more delight.
But, oh! as to embrace me she inclined,
I waked, she fled, and day brought back my night.

Milton

APPENDIX II

REMARKABLE RHYMES

I am afraid that stern phoneticians will frown at some of these rhymes, but the question is not how a word should be pronounced, but how it is pronounced. Now the fact is that many educated people do say the following words as indicated by the rhyme, in rapid conversation. It may teach the learner to catch some words which otherwise might have escaped him.

Vigour—bigger
ocean—motion
exhaust—crossed
yacht—shot
coxswain—oxen
colonel—journal
mayoress—heiress
scourger—ordure
orchard—tortured
archer—departure
forger—ordure

cupboard—blubbered
courteous—purchase
Thalia—higher
choir—via
yours—saws
surely—Raleigh
toward—poured—sawed
nauseous—tortious—
cautious
torpor—warper—pauper
foreign—florin—warren

APPENDIX III

THE CHAOS

Dearest *creature* in *Creation*,
Studying English pronunciation,
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like *corpse*, *corps*, *horse* and *worse*,
It will keep you, *Susy*, *busy*,
Make your *head* with *heat* grow dizzy;
Tear in eye your dress you'll *tear*,
Queer, fair *seer*, hear my *prayer*,
Pray, console your loving poet,
Make my coat look *new*, dear, *sew* it!
Just compare *heart*, *beard* and *heard*,
Dies and *diet*, *lord* and *word*,
Sword and *sward*, *retain* and *Britain*,
(Mind the latter, how it's written);
Made has not the sound of *bade*;
Say, *said*, *pay*, *paid*, *laid* but *plaid*.
Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as *vague* and *ague*,
But be careful how you speak,
Say *gush*, *bush*, *steak*, *streak*, *break*, *bleak*,
Previous, *precious*, *fuchsia*, *via*,
Recipe, *pipe*, *studding-sail*, *choir*;
Woven, *oven*, *how* and *low*,
Script, *receipt*, *shoe*, *poem*, *toe*,
Hear me say, *devoid* of trickery:
Daughter, *laughter* and *Terpsichore*,
Typhoid, *measles*, *topsails*, *aisles*,
Exiles, *similes*, *reviles*,

*Wholly, holly, signal, signing,
Same, examining, but mining,
Scholar, vicar and cigar,
Solar, mica, war and far.*

From "desire": *desirable—admirable* from "admire";
*Lumber, plumber, bier but brier,
Topsham, brougham, renown but known,
Knowledge, done, lone, gone, none, tone,
One, anemone, Balmoral,
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel,
Gertrude, German, wind and mind;
Scene, Melpomene, mankind,
Tortoise, turquoise, chamois-leather,
Reading, Reading, heathen, heather.*

This phonetic labyrinth
Gives *moss, gross, brook, brooch, ninth, plinth.*

Billet does not end like *ballet*,
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.
Blood and flood are not like *food*,
Nor is *mould* like *should* and *would*.

Banquet is not nearly *parquet*,
Which exactly rhymes with *khaki*.
*Discount, viscount, load and broad,
Toward, to forward, to reward.*

Ricocheted and *croqueting, croquet?*
Right! Your pronunciation's O.K.;
*Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive and live.*

Is your *r* correct in *higher*?
Keats asserts it rhymes *Thalia*;
Hugh but *hug* and *hood* but *hoot*,
Buoyant, minute but *minute*.

Do you know the Book of *Joshua*?
Are you fond of it? Of *course you are*.
 Would it tally with my rhyme
 If I mentioned *paradigm*?
Twopence, threepence, tease are easy,
But *cease, greasy, grease* and *greasy*?
 Venice, nice, valise, revise,
 Rabies but *lullabies*.
Would you like some more? You'll have it:
David, affidavit, davit,
 Calico but *caliph. Sheik*
 Has the sound of *Czech* or *ache*.
Liberty, library, heave and *heaven,*
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.
 We say *hallowed* but *allowed,*
 People, leopard, towed but *vowed*.
Mark the difference, moreover,
Between *mover, plover, Dover,*
 Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
 Chalice but *police* and *lice*.
Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, disciple, label,
 Petal, penal and *canal,*
 Wait, surmise, plait, promise, pal,
Suit, suite, ruin. Circuit, conduit
Rhyme with "shirk it" and "beyond it,"
 But it is not hard to tell,
 Why it's *pall, mall* but *Pall Mall*.
Muscle, muscular, gaol, iron,
Timber, climber, bullion, lion,
 Worm and *storm, chaise, chaos, chair,*
 Senator, spectator, mayor.

Ivy, privy, famous. Clamour
Has the a of *drachm* and "hammer,"
Pussy, hussy and *possess*,
Desert but *desert, address*.
Golf, wolf, countenance; lieutenants
Hoist, in *lieu* of flags, left pennants.
Courier, courtier, tomb, bomb, comb,
Cow but *Cowper, some* and *home*.
Stranger does not rhyme with *anger*,
Neither does *devour* with *clangour*.
Soul but *foul* and *gaunt* but *aunt*;
Font, front, wont, want, grand, and, grant.
Arsenic, specific, scenic,
Relic, rhetoric, hygienic,
Gooseberry, goose, and close but *close*,
Paradise, rise, rose and *dose*.
Say *inveigh, neigh* but *inveigle*,
Make the latter rhyme with *eagle*,
Mind! *Meandering* but *mean*,
Serpentine and *magazine*.
And I bet you, dear, a penny,
You say *mani(-fold)* like *many*,
Which is wrong. Say *rapier, pier*,
Tier (one who ties) but *tier*.
Arch archangel! Pray, does *erring*
Rhyme with *herring*, or with *stirring?*
Prison, bison, treasure-trove,
Treason, hover, cover, cove.
Perseverance, severance. Ribald
Rhymes (but *piebald* doesn't) with *nibbled*.
Phaeton, paeon, gnat, ghat, gnaw,
Lien, phthisic, shone, bone, pshaw.

Don't be *down*, my *own*, but rough it,
And distinguish *buffet*—*buffet*;
 Brood, *stood*, *roof*, *rook*, *school*, *wool*, *stool*,
 Worcester, *Boleyn*, *foul* and *ghoul*.
With an accent pure and sterling,
You say *year*, but some say *yearling*;
 Evil, *devil*, *mezzotint*,
 Mind the *z*! (A gentle hint.)
Now you need not pay attention
To such sounds as I don't mention,
 Sounds like *pores*, *pause*, *pours* and *paws*,
 Rhyming with the pronoun *yours*;
Nor are proper names included,
Though I often heard, as *you did*,
 Funny rhymes to *unicorn*,
 Yes, you know them: *Vaughan* and *Strachan*.
No, my maiden, fair and comely,
I don't want to speak of *Cholmondeley*,
 No. Yet *Froude*, compared with proud,
 Is no better than *Macleod*.
But mind *trivial* and *vial*,
Tripod, *menial*, *denial*,
 Troll and *trolley*, *realm* and *ream*,
 Schedule, *mischief*, *schism* and *scheme*.
Argil, *gill*, *Argyle*, *gill*. Surely
May be made to rhyme with *Raleigh*,
 But you surely must not say:
 Piquet rhymes with *sobriquet*.
Had this *invalid* *invalid*,
Worthless documents? How pallid,
 How *uncouth* he, *couchant*, looked,
 When for *Portsmouth* I had booked!

Zeus, Thebes, Thales, Aphrodite,
Paramour enamoured, flighty!
Episodes, antipodes,
Acquiesce and obsequies.
Pious, impious, limb, climb, comely,
Worsted, worsted, crumbly, dumbly,
Conquer, conquest, breathed, fan,
Wan, Sedan and artisan.

The *th* will surely trouble you
More than *r*, *ch* or *w*,

May then these phonetic gems:
Thomas, thyme, Theresa, Thames,
Thomson, Chatham, Waltham, Streatham,
—There are more, but I forget 'em—
Wait! I've got it: *Anthony,*
Lighten your anxiety.

The archaic word *albeit*
Does not rhyme with eight—you see it;
With and *forthwith*: one has voice,
One has not; you make your choice.

Shoes, goes, does.[†] Now first say: *finger*;
Then say: *singer, ginger, linger.*

Real, zeal, mauve, gauze and gauge,
Marriage, foliage, mirage, age.

Hero, heron, query, very,

Parry, tarry, fury, bury,

Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth,

Job, Job, blossom, bosom, oath.

Faugh, oppugnant, keen oppugners,

Bowing, bowing banjo-tuners!

[†] No, you are wrong. This is the plural of *doe*.

Yachts you know. But *noes*, *canoes*,
Puisne truism, *use*, to *use*?
Though the difference seems little,
We say *actual*, but *victual*,
Seat, *sweat*, *chaste*, *caste*, *Leigh*, *eight*, *height*,
Put, *nut*, *granite* and *unite*.
Reefer does not rhyme with *deaf*,
Feoffer does, and *zephyr*, *heifer*.
Dull, *bull*, *Geoffrey*, *George*, *ate*, *late*,
Hint, *pint*, *senate* but *sedate*,
Gaelic, *Arabic*, *pacific*,
Science, *conscience*, *scientific*,
Tour but *our* and *succour*, *four*,
Gas, *alas* and *Arkansas*.
Sea, *idea*, *guinea*, *area*,
Psalm, *Maria* but *malaria*,
Youth, *south*, *southern*, *cleanse* and *clean*,
Doctrine, *turpentine*, *marine*.
Compare *alien* with *Italian*,
Dandelion with *battalion*,
Rally with *ally*; *yea*, *ye*,
Eye, *I*, *ay*, *aye*, *whay*, *key*, *quay*.
Say *aver*, but *ever*, *fever*,
Neither, *leisure*, *skein*, *receiver*.
Never guess—it is not safe:
We say *calves*, *valves*, *half*, but *Ralph*.
Starry, *granary*, *canary*,
Crevice but *device* and *eyrie*,
Face but *preface*, but *grimace*,
Phlegm, *phlegmatic*, *ass*, *glass*, *bass*,
Bass, *large*, *target*, *gin*, *give*, *verging*,
Ought, *oust*, *joust* and *scour* but *scourging*,

Ear but *earn*, and *wear* and *tear*
Do not rhyme with “here,” but “ere.”
Seven is right, but so is *even*,
Hyphen, *roughen*, *nephew*, *Stephen*,
Monkey, *donkey*, *clerk* and *jerk*,
Asp, *grasp*, *wasp*, *demesne*, *cork*, *work*.
A of *valour*, *vapid*, *vapour*,
S of *news* (compare *newspaper*),
G of *gibbet*, *gibbon*, *gist*,
I of *antichrist* and *grist*
Differ, like *diverse* and *divers*,
Rivers, *strivers*, *shivers*, *fishers*,
Once but *nonce*, *toll*, *doll* but *roll*,
Polish, *Polish*, *poll* and *poll*.
Pronunciation—think of *psyche*!—
Is a *paling*, *stout* and *spikey*;
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing “groats” and saying *groats*?
It's a dark *abyss* or *tunnel*,
Strewn with stones, like *rowlock*, *gunwale*,
Islington and *Isle* of *Wight*,
Housewife, *verdict* and *indict*.
Don't you think so, reader, rather,
Saying *lather*, *bather*, *father*?
Finally: which rhymes with “enough,”
Though, *through*, *plough*, *cough*, *hough*, or *tough*?
Hiccough has the sound of “sup” . . .
My advice is—give it up!

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