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# EVERYDAY ERRORS

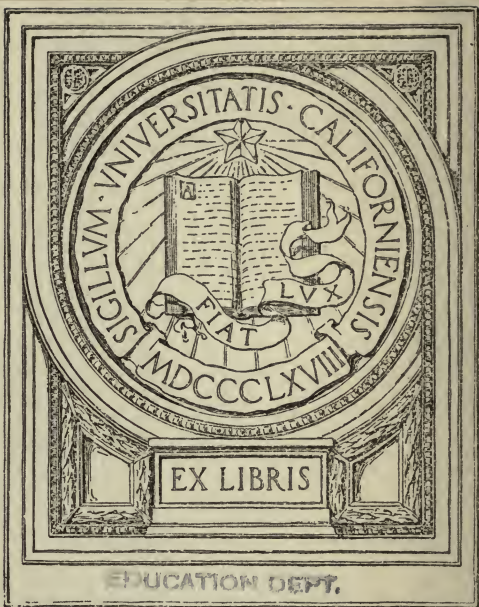
IN  
PRONUNCIATION  
SPELLING  
SPOKEN ENGLISH

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**EVERYDAY ERRORS**



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EVERYDAY  
ERRORS

IN

*Pronunciation, Spelling, and  
Spoken English*

BY

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in the State Normal School  
San Jose, California*



SAN FRANCISCO  
RICARDO J. OROZCO  
1911

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EDUCATION DEPT.

## CONTENTS

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	Page
Foreword . . . . .	5 to 6
Few Vowel Sounds . . . . .	7
Pronunciation . . . . .	8 to 20
Type-words . . . . .	21 to 28
Additional Lists . . . . .	28 to 31
Spelling . . . . .	32 to 37
Rules for Spelling . . . . .	38 to 39
Spoken English . . . . .	40 to 48

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“*Ars est celare artem*— true art consists in hiding art.”

To do things right without apparent effort— to be conscious of pronouncing words correctly and of speaking correct English, without making others unpleasantly conscious of the fact—that were “a consummation devoutly to be wished”!

“Then give to the world the best you have,  
And the best will come back to you.”

## FOREWORD

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Most of the errors herein corrected have been *everyday* errors in my own classes, and this little book is designed for the use of my students. No attempt has been made to compile exhaustive lists, but simply to give practical help to prospective teachers. To this end, pretty full explanations have in many cases been given, and often the wrong form, to emphasize, by contrast, the right form. Words that have two acceptable pronunciations have for the most part been omitted from the lists; and to avoid repetition, words that appear in the pronouncing list have been omitted from the spelling list. Certain words, that present a problem in pronunciation repeated in many words of the same class, I have called *type-words*, and have emphasized each by following it with a special list for practice.

From the multitude of "Common

Errors," copiously and sufficiently treated in more pretentious publications, I have endeavored to select only those which have actually been common in my personal work.

For reference, and authority, I have used the latest editions of the International and Standard Dictionaries, and Phyfe's *12,000 Words Often Mispronounced*.

G. P.

San Jose, California,  
April, 1911.

## ERRATA

Page

- 7—In the *Short ě* note, *to* should be omitted.
- 8—*admirable* should have short *ǎ* in first syllable.
- 10—*before* should have accent on last syllable.  
“*not* beneficent” should read “*not* be nif’ i sent.”
- 11—*daughter* for pronunciation should be *tēr* not *těr*.
- 13—*gather* should have short *ǎ*.
- 14—*hur raw’* should have accent and not apostrophe.
- 16—*probably* should have short *ǒ*.
- 18—*tracts* should have short *ǎ*.  
*trǎv’ el er* the *v* was omitted.
- 19—*Westminster* the accent on first syllable was omitted.
- 23—*begrudge* should not have hard *ġ* in the pronunciation.
- 24—*quietly* should have long *ī* in first syllable.  
*audience* the last *e* should not be long *ē*.
- 26—*music* should have accent on first syllable.
- 27—*calamities* should have intermediate *à* in first syllable.  
*shallow* should be *shǎll’ ō* for pronunciation.
- 34—*kindergarten* the accent on first syllable was omitted.

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## A FEW VOWEL SOUNDS TO BE CAREFULLY NOTED

- ā, *long a*, as in ate, canary, various  
 ă, *short a*, as in at, man, and, hand  
 ä, *Italian a*, as in arm, aunt, laugh  
 à, *intermediate a*, as in ask, chance, master. This also "obscure a", found in end syllables, as in *â cā'-ci à*, and in other unaccented syllables  
 â, *circumflex a*, as in air, chair, fairy  
 ą, *broad a*, as in all, daughter, water

The *intermediate-a* words are oftenest mispronounced, and the *broad-a* words next

*Short ě*, found unsuspectedly in some syllables, must *not* to be sounded like *long a*:

America—a mĕr' i ca  
 cemetery—cem' e tĕr y  
 peremptory—pĕr' em to ry  
 peruke—pĕr uke' (or pĕr' uke)

*Modified ǒ*, is a sound between *short o* in *not* and *broad o* in *for*:

Gǒd, mǒck

The compound vowel sounds: *u*, equivalent to *ĩ'-ōō*, and *ow* equivalent to *ä'-ōō*:

lūte, *not* lōot; counsel, *not* cōnsul

## PRONUNCIATION

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- à—always obscure; never *long ā* in reading or speaking
- acacia—à kā' shī à, *long ā* second syllable
- accept—āk sěpt', *not* to be confused with except
- acclimate—āk klī' māt, accent second syllable
- accompaniment—āk kŭm' pā nī ment, five syllables
- accurate—āk' kŭ rāt, *type-word\** for "cutting no syllable short that should be sounded distinctly, and giving every vowel its true value"
- across—à krōs' *not* à crōst'. This ō is the "happy medium" between *short ō* in *nōt* and *broad ô* in *ôr*
- actor—āk' tēr, *not* ākt' ôr; *type-word\**
- address—ād dress', *always*, noun and verb
- admirable—ād' mīr à bl, *type-word\**
- Adonis—à dō' nīs, *not* ā dōn' īs
- adult—à dŭlt', *not* ād' ŭlt
- aerial—ā ē' rī āl, *not* ā' rī ěl
- again—à ġen' *not* ā ġān'; so à ġenst'
- ague—ā' ġŭ, *not* āġ, *nor* ā' ġēr
- Alcott—āl' kŭt, *not* āl' kōt'
- alias—ā' lī ās, *not* ā lī' as, *nor* āl' ī ās
- ally—āl lī', both noun and verb

\*Lists of all *type-words* follow this general list

- almond—ä'mund, *not* ä'l mund  
 alpaca—äl päk' ä, *not* ä'l ä päk' ä  
 alternate—äl' tēr nāt, *not* äll' tēr nāt;  
     noun and adjective, ä'l tēr' nāt  
 America—ä mēr' ĩ kà; *not* ä mā' rĭ kĭ  
 amiable—ä' mĭ ä bl, four syllables  
 and—änd, *short* ä and sound *d*  
 anemone—ä nēm' ō ne, *not* "an enemy"  
 angel—än' jël, *not* än' jül  
 answer—än' sēr, *not* short ä  
 any—ën' ĩ, *not* "in' ĳ" nor "än' ĳ";  
     the same with *many*  
 apparatus—äp pä rä' tūs, *not* rät' ūs  
 apricot—ä' prĭ kōt, *not* äp  
 Arab—är' äb, *not* ä' räb  
 archipelago—är kĭ pël' ä gō, *not* arch  
 architect—är' kĭ tēkt, *not* arch  
 arctic—ärk' tĭc, *not* är-tĭk  
 arithmetic—ä rĭth' mētĭk, *not* rĭth' ūntĭk  
 Asia—ä' shĭ ä, *not* ä' zhä  
 asked—äskt, *not* äst, nor äsk, which is  
     *present tense: type-word\** for *inter-*  
     *mediate ä*  
 attacked—ät täkt', *not* ät täk' tēd  
 athlete—äth' lēt, *not* äth' ä lēt; so ath-  
     lēt' ĩk and äth lēt' ĩks  
 audacious—aw dā' shūs  
 auxiliary—awg zĭl' yä rĭ  
 Avon—ä' vōn  
 ay—ĭ  
 aye—ä, meaning *always*; ĭ, when it  
     means *yes*  
 babel—bä' bël, *not* bābble  
 bacteria—bäk tē' rĭ ä; *type-word\** for  
     *long ē* in second syllable

\*See lists of all *type-words*

- bade—bād, *not* bād  
 banana—bā nā' nā, *not* bān ān' ā  
 banquet—bāng' qwět  
 Baptist—bāp' tist, *not* bab' tist  
 been—bīn, *not* bēn *nor* bēn  
 before—bē' fōre, *not* bū' fōre; *type-*  
*word\** for long ē in first syllable  
 beginning—bē gīn' īng, *not* bē gēn' īng  
 beloved—bē lūv' ēd, adjective and  
 noun; the participle is bē lūvd'  
 beneficent—bē nēf' ī sēnt, *not* bē nēf'-  
 ī sēnt, *nor* bēn ē fīsh' unt  
 Bethlehem—bēth' lē hēm, *not* hām  
 biography—bī ōg' rā fī, *not* bī *nor* bē  
 blackguard—blāg' gārd, *not* blāk' gārd  
 Blackstone—blāk' stūn, *not* blāk' stōne';  
 the same with Glād' stūn  
 bonnet—bōn' ēt, *not* būn' īt  
 bouquet—bōō kā', *not* bō' kā'; a very  
 common error!  
 Bowdoin—bō' dn (college)  
 breeches—brīch' ēz, *not* brēch' īz  
 brethren—brēth' rēn, *not* brūth' er ēn  
 brooch—brōch, *not* brōōch  
 broom—brōōm, *type-word\** for long ōō  
 Bryn-Mawr—brīn mār' (college in Pa.)  
 burglar—būrg' lār, *not* būrg' ū lār  
 buried—bēr' īd, *not* būr' īd  
  
 cannot—kān' nōt, *not* kān nōt'  
 can't—kānt, *not* kānt  
 catch—käch, *not* kēch  
 Caucasian—kaw kā' shān  
 cemetery—sēm' ē tēr ī, *not* sēm' ē trī,  
*nor* sēm' ē tā' rī; *type-word\** for ac-  
 cent only on first syllable

\*See list of *type-words*

- certain—sēr' tīn, *not* sēr' t'n  
 chastisement—chās' tīz mēnt  
 chauffeur—shō fēr'  
 Chelsea—chēl' sē  
 Chicago—shī kaw' gō, *not* chī kō' go  
 children—chīl' drēn, *not* chīl' dērn  
 choose—chōōz, *not* chūz  
 chorus—kō' rūs, *not* kōr' ūs  
 civil—sīv' il, *not* sīv' l  
 clothes—klōthz, *not* klōz  
 column—kōl' ūm, *not* kōl' yūm  
 comely—kūm' lī, *not* kōm' lī  
 company—kūm' pā nī, *not* kūmp' nī,  
*nor* kūm' pān ē; *type-word\** for fi-  
 nal *y* like *i*  
 conjure (to enchant)—kūn' jēr; to im-  
 plore, kōn jūrē'  
 consummate (adjective) kōn sūm' māt  
 cornet—kōr' nēt, *not* cōr nēt'  
 cornucopia—kōr nū kō' pī ā  
 corrupt—kōr rūpt', *not* kō rūpt'  
 council—kown' sīl,  
 counsel—kown' sēl, *not* kōn' sūl  
 countenance—kown' tē nānce, *not* cōn  
 covetous—kūv' ēt ūs  
 cranberry—krān' bēr ī, *not* krām  
 creek—krēk, *not* krīk  
 crept—krēpt; sound the *t*, and the same  
 with *kept*, *swept*, *slept*  
 cupola—kū' pō là, *not* kū' pā lō'
- daughter—daw' tēr, *not* dōt' ēr; *type-*  
*word\** for broad *a* sounds  
 draught—drāft  
 decade—dēk' āde, *not* dē kād'  
 defect—dē fēkt', *not* dē' fēkt

\*See list of *type-words*

- deficit—děf' ĭ sīt, *not* dē fīs' ĭt  
 Dickens's—dīck' ěns ěz; pronounce the  
   's as separate syllable. *Type-word\**  
   for possessive singular of many  
   proper names ending in s  
 didactic—dīd āk' tīk, *not* dī' dāk' tīck  
   *type-word\** for *short ĭ* in first syl-  
   lable  
 discourse—dīs kōrs', *not* dīs' kōrs  
 dissertation—dīs' ěr tā' shŭn; *not* dēs  
 doth—dŭth, *not* dōth  
 duel—dŭ' ěl, *not* dōō' ŭl; *type-word\** for  
   *long ū*, pronounced like ĭ'-ōō  
 Edinburgh—ěd' ĭn bŭr ō, *not* ěd' ĭn-  
   bŭrgē  
 efficient—ěf fīsh' ěnt, *not* ě fīsh' ŭnt  
 either—ě' thěr, better usage than  
   ī thěr; and the same with *neither*  
 eleven—ě lěv' n, *not* ŭ'lev'n, *nor* lěv'n  
 elm—ělm, *not* ěl' ŭm  
 elocution—ěl ō kŭ' shŭn, *not* ěl ě kŭ'  
   shun  
 emblem—ěm' blěm, *not* ěm' blŭm; *prob-*  
   *lěm* and *Jerusalěm*, also  
 enemies—ěn' ě mīz, *not* ěn' ě měz; *type-*  
   *word* for *ies* pronounced like ĭz  
 English—ĭng' ġlīsh, *not* ěng' ġlīsh  
 enthusiasm—ěn thŭ' zī āzm, *not* ĭzm  
 equipage—ěk' wī pāj  
 err—ěr, *not* ār  
 every—ěv' ěr ĭ, *not* ěv' rī, unless con-  
   tracted to ěv' ry  
 evil—ě' vl, *not* ě' vīl, except in chant-  
   ing or intoning  
 exquisite—ěks' kwīz ĭt, *not* ěks kwīz' ĭ  
 extant—ěks' tānt, *not* ěks tānt'

\*See list of *type-words*

facet—fäs' ět, *not* fā' sět  
 far—fär, *not* fûr; so *farther*  
 fear—fēr, *not* fîr; so with *tears, beard,*  
*cheerful, here, hear, etc.*  
 February—fěb' rû ā rî; *not* fěb' ū ā rî  
 fifth—fîfth, *not* fîft  
 figure—fîg yēr, *not* fîg gēr  
 finance—fî nānce'; so *fî nān' shāl*  
 for—fôr, *not* fûr, *not* fōre  
 forge—fôrj, *not* fôrj  
 fountain—fown' tîn, *not* fownt' n; the  
 same with *mountain*  
 fragrant—frā' grānt, *not* frāg' rünt  
 from—fröm, *not* früm  
 frontier—frön' tēr, *not* frün tēr'  
 frontispiece—frönt' is pēs

gather—gāth' ěr, *not* gēth' ěr  
 genuine—jěn' yū in, *not* jěn' ū ine'  
 geography—jē ōg' rā fî, *not* jār' grā fy  
 geometry—jē ōm' ě trî, *not* jōm' ě trî  
 God—gōd; *not* göd *nor* gawd, but the  
 "golden mean"  
 gondola—gōn' dō là, *not* gōn dō' là  
 governor—gūv' ěr nēr, *not* gūv' nēr  
 granary—grān' à rî, *not* grān' ěr ĩ  
 grievous—grēv' ūs, *not* grēv' ĩ us  
 guests—gěsts *not* guess; sound final  
 consonants; *type-word\** for *s-t-s*

harem—hā' rēm  
 harassed—hār' āst  
 heigh-ho—hî' hō, *not* hā' hō  
 height—hîte  
 Hemans—hēm' ānz, *not* hē' manz  
 humble—hūm' bl, *not* ūm' bl

\*See list of *type-words*

humor—hū' mēr, *better than* yū' mēr  
 hundred—hūn' drēd, *not* hūn' derd  
 hurrah—hōō rā', *not* hūr raw'  
 hyacinth—hī' à sīnth, *not* hī' à sīnt  
 hydrangea—hī drān' jē à  
 hypocrisy—hī pōk' rī sī

ice cream—īs' krēm  
 idea—ī dē' à, *not* ī' dēa, *nor* ī dee'  
 ideal—ī dē' àl, *not* ī' dē àl  
 ignoramus—īg nō rā' mūs  
 illustrate—īl lūs' trāt, *not* īl' lūs trāt  
 influence—īn' flū ěnce, *not* īn flū' ěnce  
 inherent—īn hē' rēnt, *not* īn hār' ěnt  
 inquiry—īn kwī' rī, *not* īn' kwī rī  
 introduce—īn trō dūce', *not* īn ter dōos'  
 instead—īn stēd', *not* īn stīd'  
 interest—īn' tēr ěst, *accent first syl-*  
*lable only, but not slight others;*  
*the same with* īn' tēr ěst ěd *and*  
*īn' tēr ěst īng*  
 irreparable—īr rēp' à ra bl  
 irrevocable—īr rēv' ō kà bl  
 Italian—ī tāl' yān; *so* ī tāl' īk  
 itinerary—ī tīn' ěr ā rī *not* ī tīn' ěr ī

January—jān' yū ā rī, *not* jēn  
 jaundice—jōn' dīs *not* jawn' dīs  
 just—jūst, *not* jēst *nor* jīst

Kearney—kār' nī, *not* kēr' nī  
 khaki—kā' kē, *not* kāk' ī  
 kimono—kē mō' nō, *not* kīm ō' nà

label—lā' běl, *not* lā' bl  
 Latin—lāt' īn, *not* lāt' n



laureate—law' rē āte  
 lest—lēst, *not* lēast  
 level—lēv' ěl, *not* lēv' l  
 long-lived—lông'-līvd, *not* lông-līvd'  
 lower—low' ěr (to threaten), *not* lō' ěr;  
*low* as in *allow*  
 lyceum—lī sē' ūm

maintenance—mān' tĕn ānce  
 mankind—mān kīnd'  
 Mary—mā' rī, *not* mār' rī, *nor* mūr' rī;  
*but* mār' ĭ ġold  
 measure—mězh' yĕr, *not* māz' ūre; so  
 with *pleasure* and *treasure*  
 mineralogy—mīn ěr āl' ō jī, *not* ōl; so  
 ġĕn ě āl' ō jī  
 minute—mīn' ĭt, *not* mīn' ūt  
 miracle—mīr' à kl, *not* mā' rī kl  
 mischievous—mīs' chĕ vūs, *not* mīs chĕ'  
 vūs, *nor* mīs chĕ' vī ūs  
 miserere—mīz ě rē' rē  
 Missouri—mīs sōō' rī, *not* mīz zōō' rī  
 mistletoe—mīz' l tō, *not* mīs' l tō  
 model—mōd' ěl, *not* mōd' l  
 museum—mū zē' ūm

naked—nā' kĕd *not* nĕk' ĭd  
 neuralgia—nū rāl' jī à, *not* nū rāl' ĭ jī  
 newspaper—nūz' pā pĕr, *not* nōoz  
 Niagara—nī āġ' à rà; four syllables;  
 often misspelled  
 nobody—nō' bōd' ĭ, *not* nō' būd ĭ; so *any-*  
*body, everybody, somebody*

object—ōb' jĕkt, *not* jīkt; so *subject*  
 of—ōv, *not* ūv  
 often—ōf' n, *not* ōf' ten, *nor* awf' ten

oppressed—öp přest', *not* ō' přest'  
 ordeal—ôr' dě ál, *not* ôr' dě' ál  
 or—ôr, *not* are  
 our—owr, *not* are

pantomime—pän' tō mīm, *not* mīm; this  
 word very often mispronounced  
 partition—pär tĩ' shũn, *not* pē tĩ' shũn  
 partner—pärt' nēr, *not* pärd' nēr  
 partridge—pär' trij, *not* päť' rij  
 pencil—pěn' sil, *not* pěn' sũl  
 perhaps—pēr häps', *not* přē' häps, *nor*  
 präps  
 periodic—pē rĩ öd' ik, *not* pĩr, *nor* pār;  
 the same with *period*  
 perspiration—pēr spĩ rä' shũn, *not* pres  
 pianist—pĩ än' ĩst, *not* pē' än ĩst  
 pillow—pĩl' lō, *not* pĩl' ũ; *type-word\**  
 plague—plāg, *not* plēg  
 poem—pō' ěm, *not* pōm, *nor* pō' ũm; so  
 pō' ět and pō' ět rĩ  
 poinsettia—poin sět' ĩ à, *not* poin sět' à  
 possess—pōz zēs', *not* pō zes'.  
 precedence—přē sē' děnce, *always*  
 precedent—přēs' ě děnt; přē sē' děnt  
 when an adjective  
 Presbyterian—přěz bĩ tē' rĩ än, *not* tĩr  
 presentation—přěz ěn tã' shun  
 presumptuous—přē zũmpt' yũ ũs  
 pretence—přē těnce'  
 pretty—přĩť' ĩ, *not* přěť' ĩ, *nor* pũr' tĩ  
 probably—přōb' à blĩ, *not* přōb' ũ lĩ  
 program—přō' grãm, *not* přō' grũm  
 promiscuous—přō mĩs' kũ ũs  
 pronunciation—přō nũn sĩ ā' shun  
 prophesy—přōf' ě sĩ; (verb)

\*See list of *type-words*

- pumpkin—pŭmp' kĭn, *not* pŭng' kĭn  
 put—pŭot, *not* pŭt  
 quaff—kwăf, *not* kwăf *nor* kwăf  
 quarrel—kwŏr' ěl, *not* kwarł  
 qui vive—kĕ vĕv' *not* kwĕ vĕv'  
 quoted—kwŏ' tĕd, *not* cŏat' ed; the  
     same with *quotation*  
 really—rĕ' ăl lĭ, *not* rĕ' lĭ  
 recess—rĕ sĕs', *not* rĕ' sĕs  
 recognize—rĕk' ōg nĭz  
 record—(noun) rĕk' ěrd, *not* rĕk' ôrd  
 recourse—rĕ kŏrs'  
 research—rĕ sĕrch'  
 resource—rĕ sŏrs'  
 reveillé—rĕ văl' yă; in U. S. Army, rĕv-  
     ă lĕ'  
 rid—rĭd, *not* rĕd; gĕt rĭd, *not* "gĭt rĕd"  
 ridiculous—rĭd ĭk' yŭ lŭs, *not* rĕ dĭk' ũ lŭs  
 rinse—rĭnce, *not* rĕnce  
 risk—rĭsk, *not* rĕsk  
 robust—rŏ bŭst' *not* rŏ' bŭst  
 roil—roil, *not* rĭl; so *boil*  
 romance—rŏ mănĕc', *not* rŏ' mănĕc  
 Roosevelt—rŏz' vĕlt, *not* rŏŏs' vĕlt  
 rostrum—rŏs' trŭm, *not* rŏ' strŭm  
 sacrifice—săk' rĭf ĭz; noun and verb;  
     some authorities give last syl-  
     lable ĭs  
 sacrilegious—săk rĭl ě' jŭs; almost al-  
     ways pronounced lĭj' ũs  
 sagacious—să gă' shŭs  
 saith—sĕth, *noi* să' ĭth  
 sarsaparilla—săr să pă rĭl' ă, five syl-  
     lables; *not* săs prĭl' ă  
 satin—săt' ĭn, *not* săt' n  
 scared—skărd, *not* skărt  
 second—sĕk' ũnd, *not* sĕk' ũnt

- secretary—sĕk' rĕ tā rĭ, *not* sĕk' ě tā rĭ  
 sha'n't—shănt, *not* shănt  
 shew—shō; no longer *shū*. This and  
*froward* often mispronounced in  
 Bible reading  
 similar—sĭm' ĭ lăr, *not* sĭm' ũ lăr  
 since—*not* sĕnce  
 sixth—sĭksth, *not* sixt  
 solace—sōl' ās, *not* sō' lās  
 solemn—sōl' ěm, *not* sōl' ũm  
 spirit—spĭr' ĭt, *not* spĭrt, spĕrret, *nor*  
 spĭr' ũt  
 stamp—stămp (with the feet), *not*  
 stōmp  
 steady—stĕd' ĭ, *not* stĭd' ĭ  
 stint—stĭnt (a task), *not* stĕnt  
 subtle—sŭt' l; *subtile*, the same; or per-  
 haps better, sŭb' tĭl  
 suburb—sŭb' ũrb, *not* sŭ' bŭrb  
 sudden—sŭd' ěn, *not* sŭd' n  
 supple—sŭp' l *not* sōō' pl, *nor* sōō' pl  
 surprise—sŭr prĭz', *not* sŭp prĭz'  
 syrup—sĭr' ũp, *not* sŭr' up; spelled *sir-*  
*up*, and pronounced the same  
 the—the before vowel sounds; other-  
 wise thŭ  
 theatre—thĕ' à tĕr, *not* thĕ ā' tĕr  
 tiny—tĭ' nĭ, *not* tĕ' nĭ, *nor* tĭn ĭ  
 to—too before vowel sounds; *to eat*, etc.  
 together—too gĕth' ěr, *not* too găth' ěr  
 toward—tō' ěrd, *not* tō wărd'; so  
*towards*  
 tracts—trăcts *not* tracks  
 travel—trăv' ěl, *not* trăv' l; and tră' el-  
 ěr, *not* trăv' lĕr  
 traverse—trăv' ěrs, *not* tră vĕrs'  
 tremendous—trĕ mĕn' dŭs, *not* jŭs

trespass—trēs' pās, *not* trēs pās', except in chanting

truths—trūths, *not* trūthz

Tuesday—tūz' dā, *not* tōōz' dī

umbrella—ūm brēl' la; *not* ūm bēr ēl' à  
unaccented—ūn āk sēnt' ěd, *not* ūn-  
āk' sent ĭd

unto—ūn' too, *not* ūn too', *nor* ōn' too;  
also *into* should be ĭn'too, *not* ĭn too'

usage—yū'zāj, *not* yūs' ĭj

usually—yū'zhū āl ĭ, *not* yū'zhāl ĭ

usurp—yū zūrp', *not* yū sūrp'

vagary—vā gā' rī, *not* vā' gā rī

vanquish—vāng' kwīsh, *not* vān' kwīsh

vaudeville—vōd' vīl

vehement—vē' hē mēnt

Venezuela—vēn ěz wē' là, *not* vēn zū-  
ē' là

vessel—vēs' sēl, *not* vēs' l

volume—vōl' yūm, *not* vōl' yūm

wander—wōn' dēr, *not* wūn' dēr; and  
wōn' dēr ĭng, *not* wōnd' rīng

wanted—wawnt' ěd, *not* wōnd'

was—wōz, *not* wūz

water—waw' tēr, *not* wōt' ěr

well—wēl, *not* wāl, *nor* wōōl

were—wēr, *not* wāre

Westminster—wēst mīn'stēr, *not* wēst-  
mīn' ĭs tēr

wharf—hwarf, *not* warf; *type-word*\*

wistaria—wīs tā' rī à, *not* wēs tē' rī à

with—with (prep.), *not* with; the *th*  
must be vocalized

\*See list of *type-words*

wonder—wünder, *not* wän' dēr  
 wont—wünt; but *won't* is wōnt  
 Worcester—wōos' tēr; *commonly*  
     wōos' tēr  
 wrath—räth, *not* räth

Xantippe—zän tĭp' ē

yacht—yöt, *not* yät  
 yonder—yön' dēr, *not* yĕn' dēr, *nor*  
     yŭn dēr  
 youths—yōoths, *not* yōothz

zoology—zō ōl' ō jĭ, *not* zōō ōl' ō jĭ



## \**TYPE-WORDS*

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“Give every vowel its true value”:

- accurate—āk' yū rāt  
bakery—bā' kēr ĭ  
botany—bōt' ān ĭ  
complimentary—kōm plī mēn' tā rī  
considerable—kōn sīd' ēr à bl  
correctly—kōr rēkt' lī  
different—dīf' fēr ěnt  
elementary—ēl ē mēn' tā rī  
gallery—gāl' ēr ĭ  
generally—jēn' ēr àl ĭ  
heliotrope—hē' lī ō trōp  
history—hīs' tō rī  
honorable—ōn' ēr à bl  
laboratory—lāb' ō rà tō rī  
laudanum—law' dà nūm  
library—lī' brā rī  
mackerel—māk' ēr ěl  
memory—mēm' ō rī  
mercury—mēr' kū rī  
mystery—mīs' tēr ĭ  
parliamentary—pār lī mēn' tā rī  
participle—pärt' ĭ sī pl  
rhetoric—rēt' ō rīk  
temperament—tēm' pēr à mēnt  
valuable—vāl' yū à bl  
variegate—vā' rī ē gāt  
veterinary—vēt' ēr ĭn ā rī  
victory—vīk' tō rī

Final *or* like *ēr*:

actor—āk' tēr  
 curator—kū rā' tēr  
 creditor—krēd' it ēr  
 debtor—dēt' ēr  
 educator—ēd' ū kā tēr  
 error—ēr' ēr  
 factor—fāk' ter  
 legislator—lēj' is lā tēr  
 metaphor—mēt' à fēr  
 proprietor—prō prī' ē tēr  
 respirator—rēs' pīr ā tēr  
 solicitor—sō līs' i tēr  
 testator—tēs' tā tēr

*able*-words accented on first syllable:

admirable—ād' mīr ā bl  
 applicable—āp' plī kā bl  
 comparable—kōm' pā rā bl  
 despicable—dēs' pīk ā bl  
 explicable—ēx' plīk ā bl  
 formidable—fōr' mīd ā bl  
 hospitable—hōs' pīt ā bl  
 lamentable—lām' ěn tā bl

*Intermediate-à* words:

asked <i>not</i> askt	nās' tỹ
blast <i>not</i> bläst	päss
cast <i>not</i> käst	päst
class <i>not</i> kläs	täsk
ghastly <i>not</i> gäst' lē	väst
glass <i>not</i> gläs	dänce
grass <i>not</i> gräs	chance
last <i>not</i> läst	advänce
master <i>not</i> mästēr	äfter
mast <i>not</i> mäst	Fränce



Long  $\bar{e}$  in second syllable

bacteria—bǎk tē' rǐ à  
 criterion—krī tē' rǐ un  
 deteriorate—dē tē' rǐ ēr āt  
 experience—ĕx pē' rǐ ĕnce  
 interior—īn tē' rǐ ēr  
 material—mā tē' rǐ àl  
 superior—sū pē' rǐ ēr

Long *be* in first syllable

because—bē kawz', *not* bū kǔz'  
 before—bē fōr', *not* bū fōr'  
 begrudge—bē grǔg'  
 behind—bē hind', *not* bū hīnd'  
 behold—bē hōld' *not* bū hōld'  
 believe—bē lēv' *not* blēv'  
 belong—bē lōng', *not* blōng  
 beneath—bē nēth'  
 beware—bē wâr'

Long sound of  $\bar{o}$ 

broom, *not* brōom, *not* brūm  
 food, *not* fōod  
 foolish, *not* fōol' ish  
 noon, *not* nōon, *nor* nūn  
 poor, *not* pōre  
 roof, *not* rōof, *nor* rūf  
 room, *not* rōom, *nor* rūm  
 root, *not* rōot, common error!  
 spoon, *not* spōon *nor* spūn  
 soon, *not* sōon *very* common error  
 woof, *not* wōof

Words of several syllables, accented only on the first.—But one should give all the syllables their full value, unless one is English, and *naturally* slights some syllables:

cemetery—sēm' ē tēr ĭ  
 dictionary—dĭk' shŭn à rĭ  
 dysentery—dĭs' ěn tēr ĭ  
 monastery—mŏn' às tēr ĭ  
 ordinary—ôr' dĭn ā rĭ  
 stationery—stā' shŭn ěr ĭ

Final *y* like *ĭ*, *not* like *ē*

company—kŭm' pā rĭ  
 enemy—ěn' ē mĭ  
 jollity—jŏl' ĭ tĭ  
 literally—lĭt' ěr āl lĭ  
 merrily—měr' rĭ lĭ  
 novelty—nŏv' ěl tĭ  
 penalty—pĕn' āl tĭ  
 quietly—kwĭ' ět lĭ

*Broad-a* sounds.—This is a very important list:

auction—awk' shun  
 audience—aw' dĭ ěncē  
 autobiography—aw tŏ bĭ ŏg' rā fĭ  
 autumn—aw tŭm  
 broad—brawd  
 brought—brawt  
 caught—kawt  
 daub—dawb

fault—fawlt, *not* fölt  
 haughty—haw' tī  
 naught—nawt; so with naw' tī  
 ought—awt; *aught*, the same  
 sought—sawt  
 talk—tawk  
 taught—tawt, *not* tōt!  
 thought—thawt  
 wrought—rawt, *not* rōt!

Possessive singular of proper names  
 ending in *s*. Good use seems to  
 favor adding both the apostrophe  
 and *s*:

*Cross's* "Life of George Eliot"  
*Dickens's* "Dombey and Son"  
*Hemans's* "Landing of the Pilgrim  
 Fathers"  
*Holmes's* "Guardian Angel"  
*Keats's* "Endymion"

Short *ī* in last syllable:

April—ā' prīl, *not* ā' prūl  
 civil—sīv' īl, *not* sīv' ūl  
 Philip—fil' īp, *not* fil' ūp  
 pilgrim—pīl' grīm, *not* pil' grūm  
 turnip—tūr' nīp, *not* turn' ūp  
 victim—vīk' tīm, *not* vik' tūm  
 vigil—vīj' īl, *not* vīj' ūl

Short *ī* in middle syllable:

attitude—āt' ī tūd, *not* āt' ū tōd  
 California—kāl ī fōr' nī ā, *not* kāl ā  
 irrigate—īr' rī gāt, *not* īr' rū gāt  
 justify—jūs' tī fī  
 universe—yū' nī vērs

pessimist—pēs' sī mīst  
 matinée—māt ĭ nā'  
 solitude—sōl' ĭ tūd, *not* sōl' ũ tōod  
 ludicrous—lū' dī krūs  
 possible—pōs' sī bl

Short *ĭ* in first syllable

didactic—dīd äk' tīk  
 digestion—dī jēs' chūn  
 digression—dī grēsh' ũn  
 diploma—dī plō' mā  
 director—dī rēk' tēr  
 diverge—dīv ērj'  
 diversion—dīv ēr' shun  
 divert—dī vērt'  
 minute—mī nūt'

Long *ū*, like *ĭ'-ōō*

absolute—äb' sō lūt, *not* loōt  
 culinary—kū' lī nā rī  
 due—dū; and dū' tỹ  
 Luke—lūk *not* loōk  
 music—mū zīk  
 nude—nūd  
 numerous—nū' mēr ũs  
 pseudo—sū' dō  
 pursue—pēr sū'  
 student—stū' dēnt *not* stōodent  
 stupid—stū' pīd *not* stōōpid  
 suit—sūt  
 tube—tūb  
 tulip—tū' līp  
 tumult—tū' mūlt  
 tune—tūn, *not* tōōn  
 tutor—tū' tēr

*Also:*

dew	renew
jew	slew
knew	view
few	chew
hew	flew
mew	clew

Words ending in *ies*, pronounced like *iz*:

enemies— <i>ĕn' ě miz</i>
calamities— <i>kā lām' ĭ tiz</i>
injuries— <i>in' jū riz</i>
parodies— <i>pār' ō dīz</i>
perplexities— <i>pēr plĕx' ĭ tiz</i>
capabilities— <i>kā pā bīl' ĭ tiz</i>
deficiencies— <i>dē fīsh' ĕn siz</i>

Sound final *sts*:

guests— <i>gĕsts</i> , <i>not</i> guess	
nests, <i>not</i> <i>nĕs</i>	blasts
priests, <i>not</i> <i>prĕs</i>	hosts
protests, <i>not</i> <i>prō tĕs'</i>	artists
ghosts, <i>not</i> <i>gōs</i>	forests
wrists, <i>not</i> <i>rīs</i>	harvests
posts, <i>not</i> <i>pōs</i>	Romanists
resists, <i>not</i> <i>rĕ zīs'</i>	tourists

*ow* not to sound like *ŭ*:

pillow— <i>pīl' lō</i>	swallow
yellow— <i>yĕl' lō</i>	willow
fellow— <i>fĕl' lō</i>	widow
window— <i>wīn' dō</i>	mellow
shallow— <i>shād' ō</i>	hollow
to-morrow— <i>tōō mōr' rō</i>	bellow

*Also words ending in o:*

potato, <i>not</i> pŭ tā' ŭ	Colorado
tomato, <i>not</i> tŭ mā' tā	Ohio
mosquito, <i>not</i> mos kē' tŭ	piano

*wh* pronounced like *hw*:

wharf—hwarf, <i>not</i> warf
what—hwŏt, <i>not</i> wŏt,
when—hwĕn, <i>not</i> wĕn
where—hwâr, <i>not</i> wear
white—hwīt, <i>not</i> wight
whisper—hwĭsper, <i>not</i> wĭs' per
whittle—hwĭt' l, <i>not</i> wĭt' l
whig—hwĭg, <i>not</i> wig
while—hwĭl, <i>not</i> wĭle
whether—hwĕth' ěr, <i>not</i> weather
whack—hwăck, <i>not</i> wăck
whither—hwĭther, <i>not</i> wĭther
why—hwĭ, <i>not</i> y

**THE FOLLOWING LISTS SHOULD  
ALSO BE STUDIED**

*shr* not to be like *sr*:

shred, <i>not</i> srĕd
shrew, <i>not</i> srŏo, but shrŭ
shriek, <i>not</i> srĕk
shrimp, <i>not</i> srĭmp
shrink, <i>not</i> srĭnk
shrivel, <i>not</i> srĭv' l
shroud, <i>not</i> sroud
shrub, <i>not</i> srŭb
shrug, <i>not</i> srŭg
shrunken, <i>not</i> srŭnk' n

Do not pronounce *ed* like *id* or *ud*;  
nor *eth* like *ith* or *uth* :

proceed <i>ěd</i>	lead <i>ěth</i>
educat <i>ěd</i>	restor <i>ěth</i>
result <i>ěd</i>	believ <i>ěth</i>
salut <i>ěd</i>	ask <i>ěth</i>
toast <i>ěd</i>	com <i>ěth</i>
visit <i>ěd</i>	seek <i>ěth</i>
wait <i>ěd</i>	find <i>ěth</i>

Do not pronounce *ness* like *niss*; nor  
*less* like *liss* :

goodn <i>ěss</i>	help <i>lěss</i>
righteousn <i>ěss</i>	mercil <i>ěss</i>
foolishn <i>ěss</i>	sleep <i>lěss</i>
frankn <i>ěss</i>	hopel <i>ěss</i>
highn <i>ěss</i>	lifel <i>ěss</i>
kindn <i>ěss</i>	nervel <i>ěss</i>
madn <i>ěss</i>	restl <i>ěss</i>

Do not pronounce *ent* like *unt*—this  
*e* is what may be called an *obscure*  
*short ě*; it has not the full value of  
*e* in *mět* :

attachm <i>ěnt</i>	mom <i>ěnt</i>
governm <i>ěnt</i>	announcem <i>ěnt</i>
commandm <i>ěnt</i>	commencem <i>ěnt</i>
presid <i>ěnt</i>	commitm <i>ěnt</i>
managem <i>ěnt</i>	reg <i>ěnt</i>
oppon <i>ěnt</i>	banishm <i>ěnt</i>

Do not pronounce *es* like *ĭz*, but  
like *ěz* :

bridges—brīdg' <i>ěz</i> , <i>not</i> brīdg' <i>ĭz</i>	
ashes	ditches
dishes	dredges

Do not pronounce *est* like *ist*, nor *et* like *it*—the *ě* is obscure:

dear**ě**st, not dear' *ist*  
 bask**ě**t, not bas' *kĭt*  
 buck**ě**t  
 earn**ě**st  
 fair**ě**st  
 hon**ě**st  
 pur**ě**st  
 sweet**ě**st  
 qui**ě**t  
 cask**ě**t

Do not pronounce *ing* like *in*:

sing**ing**, not sĭng' *ĭn*  
 someth**ing**, not sŭm' *tĭn*  
 swing**ing**, not swĭng' *ĭn*  
 sew**ing**, not sŏ' *ĭn*  
 draw**ing**, not draw' *ĭn*  
 think**ing**, not thĭnk' *ĭn*

Be careful to sound final consonants,  
 particularly *d*, and *nd*

had, not say "hat to" for *had to*  
 land**l**ord, not lăn' *lord*  
 thous**and**, not thouz' *n*  
 used, not yŭst  
 friend**sh**ip, not frĕn' *ship*  
 wind**pip**e, not wĭn' *pĭp*  
 hand**sh**ake  
 kind**ness**  
 r**ind**  
 sand**-pile**  
 err**and**



Be careful not to *blend*, that is to lap a final letter, or sound, over on the next word. This occurs most frequently with words ending in *t* or *d*, followed by the pronoun *you*:

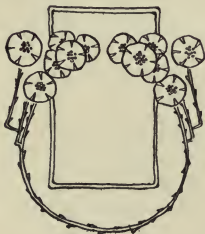
“Let not *your* heart,” *not* chūre

“’Tis time to start, *you* know,” *not* chew

“I would have told *you*,” *not* tol jew

“Men shall persecute *you*”

“As I have loved *you*”



## SPELLING

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Syllabication is very important as an aid to correct spelling, and should receive much more attention than it does.

accidentally—ac ci dent' al ly; five syl-  
lables

accommodate—ac com' mo date; two  
c's, two m's

affect—af fect'; *not* to be confused  
with effect

affiliate—af fil' i ate; one *l*

alcohol—al' co hol

all right—two words; *not* alright

allusion—al lu' sion; *not* to be con-  
fused with illusion

altogether—al to geth' er; *not* to be  
confused with all together

annual—an' nu al; two n's

anonymous—a non' y mous

appetite—ap' pe tite; two p's

appropriate—ap pro' pri ate

bachelor—bach' e lor

battalion—bat tal' ion; two t's, one *l*

benefited—ben' e fit ed; one *t*

bilious—bil' ious; one *l*

Britain—Brit' ain; *a-i-n*, and one *t*

bureau—bu' reau

business—busi' ness (*biz' ness*)

calendar—cal' en dar

canvas—can' vas, a coarse cloth

canvass—can' vass, to solicit

capital—cap' i tal, city

Capitol—Cap' i tol; building

Caribbean—Car ib be'an; one *r*, two *b*'s

chaparral—chap ar ral'; two *r*'s

chaperon—chap' er on; better without  
the *e*

Christian—Chris' tian, *i-a-n*

Cincinnati—Cin cin na'ti, two *n*'s, one *t*

college—col' lege; no *d* in the word

connoisseur—con nois seur'

conscientious—con sci en' tious

convenience—con ven' ience

correspondent—cor re spond' ent

courageous—cou ra' geous

currant—cur' rant, fruit

current—cur' rent, in stream

delicious—de li' cious

description—de scrip' tion; *not* dis

dessert—des sert'

development—de vel' op ment; no *e*  
after *p*

disappointment—dis ap point' ment,  
one *s*, two *p*'s; *appointment*  
with the prefix *dis*

ecstasy—ec' sta sy

effective—ef fect' ive; *not* af

embarrassing—em bar' rass ing; two  
*r*'s, two *s*'s

emigrate—em' i grate, to go *out* of a  
country

English—Eng' lish; never with small *e*

erysipelas—er y sip' e las

exhilarate—ex hil' a rate (egz il')

facsimile—fac sim' i le

Fahrenheit—Fah' ren heit

fascinate—fas' ci nate

Filipino—Fil i pi' no; the *feminine*  
ends with *a*

flannel—flan' nel; two *n*'s, one *l*

forty-four—for' ty-four; all these  
words from *twenty-one* to *ninety-*  
*nine* are *hyphen words*

gauge—*a* before *u*

Gibraltar—Gi bral' tar, *not* ter

grammar—gram' mar, *not* e-r

hallelujah—hal le lu' jah, *or* iah

hemorrhage—hem' or rhage

hygiene—hy' gi ene

Iliad—Il' i ad; one *l*

immigrate—im' mi grate, to come *into*  
a country

incandescent—in can des' cent

initiation—in i ti a' tion

inflammation—in flam ma' tion

judgment—judg ment; better without  
the *e*

kindergarten—kin der gar' ten, *not*  
garden

labyrinth—lab' y rinth

led—past tense of *lead*

loose—not bound; or to unbind

lose—to mislay (one's book or purse)

mademoiselle—mad em oi selle'

Manila—Ma nil' a; one *l* for city  
 mantel—man' tel (shelf)  
 melancholy—mel' an chol y  
 moccasin—moc' ca sin  
 misspelled—mis spell'; *spell* and pre-  
     fix *mis*  
 mucilage—mu' cil age

naphtha—naph' tha  
 necessarily—nec es sa' ri ly  
 nickel—*not* nickle  
 noticeable—no' tice a ble; retain *e*  
 nuisance—nui' sance

occasionally—oc ca' sion al ly; two  
     *c's*, one *s*

Oklahoma—Ok la ho' ma  
 omniscience—om nis' cience (nish)  
 opportunity—op por tu' ni ty  
 origin—or' i gin

parallel—par' al lel  
 paralysis—pa ral' y sis  
 parliamentary—par lia men' ta ry  
 paroxysm—par' ox ysm  
 peaceable—peace' a ble  
 pedler—ped' ler; *or* lar, *or* peddler  
 permanent—perm' a nent  
 personnel—per son nel'  
 Philippines—Phil' ip pines; one *l*, two  
     *p's*  
 pleasant—pleas' ant  
 postponement—post pone' ment  
 preceding—pre ced' ing; one *e* in sec-  
     ond syllable  
 prejudice—prej' u dice  
 prevalent—prev' a lent  
 primitive—prim' i tive

principal—prin' ci pal, noun and ad-  
jective  
principle—prin' ci ple, noun; *rarely* verb  
privilege—priv' i lege; no *a* in the word  
proceeding—pro ceed' ing; two *e*'s  
professor—pro fes' sor; one *f*, two *s*'s  
promissory—prom' is so ry  
psychical—psy' chic al  
psychological—psy cho log' ic al

quandary—quan' da ry  
quarantine—quar' an tine  
querulous—quer' u lous  
queue—ku (Chinaman's braid)

recommend—rec om mend', one *c*,  
two *m*'s  
remember—re mem' ber  
reminiscence—rem i nis' cence  
resurrection—res ur rec' tion  
resuscitate—re sus' ci tate  
rhapsody—rhap' so dy  
rhythm—one syllable

schedule—sched' ule  
separate—sep' a rate  
singeing—singé' ing  
souvenir—sou ve nir'  
speech—no *a*  
spring—small *s*, unless personified;  
the same with all the seasons  
statue—stat' ue, a plastic figure  
stature—stat' ure, natural height of  
man  
statute—stat' ute, a law  
supercilious—su per cil' i ous  
surely—sure' ly  
suspicious—sus pi' cious

Thackeray—Thack' er ay; *e-r, a-y*  
 thoroughly—thor' ough ly  
 tongue—*not* tounge  
 tragedy—trag' e dy  
 trousseau—trous seau'  
 truly—tru' ly  
 twelfth—no *v* in the word  
 to, *prep.*; too, *adv.*; two, *adj.*  
 tyranny—tyr' an ny, two *n*'s

usually—us' u al ly  
 until—un til'; one *l*

vaccinate—vac' ci nate; two *c*'s, one *n*  
 vacillating—vac' il late; one *c*, two *l*'s  
 Valenciennes—Va len ci ennes'  
 variegate—va' ri e gate  
 ventilate—ven' ti late; one *l*  
 village—vil' lage; *not* to be confused  
     with carriage and marriage  
 villain—vil' lain; *a-i-n*  
 vinegar—vin' e gar

Wednesday—Wednes' day (*wens*)  
 Wellesley—Welles' ley  
 West—capital *W* when part of country;  
     the same with East, North, South  
 women—wom' en (*wim' en*)

Yokohama—Yo ko ha' ma; *not* to be  
     confused with Oklahoma

A very common error in writing is the *omission* of the apostrophe, and the *misplacing* of it for the plural possessive: "four years work in English"—or "three year's work in Latin;" *for* four years' work, and three years' work.

## RULES FOR SPELLING

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At least two of the most common rules for spelling should be learned—the *Rule for Doubling*, and a general *Final-e Rule*—and made use of in everyday spelling.

### RULE FOR DOUBLING

Monosyllables and words accented on the last syllable, when they end with a single consonant preceded by a single vowel, double their final letter before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

#### *Monosyllables:*

plan — planned  
rob — robbed  
sin — sinning  
sum — summed  
trot — trotting

#### *Words accented on last syllable:*

begin — beginning  
demur — demurrer  
occur — occurred  
prefer — preferring  
refer — referred



## FINAL-E RULE

Final *e* of a primitive word is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel; retained before a suffix beginning with a consonant.

*Dropped:*

come—coming  
 pure—purity  
 tame—tamable  
 write—writing

*Retained:*

care—careful  
 large—largely  
 one—oneness  
 stale—staleness

The *e-i* and *i-e* words should be “learned by heart.” This old rhyme may be a help:

“It is *i* before *e*,  
 Except after *c*;  
 Or when sounded like *a*  
 As in *neighbor* and *weigh*.”

“*i* before *e*”

believe  
 grieve  
 niece  
 relieve  
 siege  
 sieve  
 wield

“*e* before *i*”

conceive  
 deceive  
 perceive  
 receive  
 receipt  
 seize  
 weird

## SPOKEN ENGLISH

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**Aggravate**, for **exasperate**. Say "I was so *exasperated*," or "vexed," not *aggravated*—unless you mean that you were made to *weigh* more!

**Balance**, for **remainder**, or **rest**. Not "The *balance* of the class," or of the time; say, rather, the *remainder* of the class—and the *rest* of the time.

**Case** constructions. The most insidious errors are: The objective instead of the possessive before verbal nouns; as, "There is no use of *me* going," for *my* going. Nominative after verbs or prepositions when the objective is required; as, "She invited sister and *I* to go," or "The invitation was for sister and *I*." It should be *me* in both instances. "Between you and *I*" is a common error. And beware of this construction: "A person whom I thought was going to do well." *Whom*, subject of *was going*, should of course be *who*, in the nominative case.

**Considerable** is an adjective, and should not be used for the adverb *considerably*. Not "It has helped me *considerable*," but *considerably*.

**Different** should be followed by *from*, and not by *to* or *than*. Not

“This work is different *than* I thought it would be,” but different *from* what I expected.

**Each, every** and **any**, when followed by *one* or *body*, prove troublesome often. Not “Every one of them *are* of the 400”—but *is*. The same with *either* and *neither*; they should be followed by singular verbs.

**Expect**, which means *to look forward to*, should not be used in speaking of present or past events. Not “I expect I *do* walk badly,” nor “I expect you *had* a good time.” Say *suppose*, or *suspect*.

**Fine** better not be used as an adverb. Not “I like it *fine*.” And do not answer “How are you?” with “I am *fine*.” (“Let another man praise thee,” etc!)

**From, for with.** Not “I took Latin *from* Miss S,” but *with*. Or, “I studied Latin *under* Miss S.”

**Get to go;** “I did not get to go” is an inelegant way of saying “I was unable to attend;” or “I could not go.”

**Graduate**, referring to persons, is better used in the passive voice. “He was graduated from Harvard.” A person cannot graduate himself, so why say “I graduated in 1910?” He

must *be graduated*, by Faculty and Board of Trustees.

**Guess, for think**, is a very common error: "I *guess* I shall have to refer to my book," for "I *think* I shall," etc.

**Hope**, which looks always to the future, should not be used in such expressions as "I hope I *do* find it," or "I hope he *doesn't* forget." Say "I hope I *shall* find it;" and "I hope he *will not* forget."

**If for whether**. Not "I do not know *if* I know my lines or not," but "*whether* I know," etc.

**Incidence**, not to be confused with *instance* or *incident*. Not "I want to tell you of a little *incidence* that happened," but *incident*. Or, "I will tell an *instance* of that kind."

**Infinitive**,—*split* or *cleft* infinitive. This much discussed construction seems to be growing in favor, but still it is awkward in most cases of everyday speech. "I have not been able to *really* understand this work"—say "*really* to understand." "I have tried *always* to be on time" is better than "I have tried to *always* be on time."

**Less for fewer**; Not "*Less* than fifty persons came," but *fewer*.

**Lie and Lay.** Try to distinguish between these much misused verbs. Not "He *laid* down and *slep*," but *lay* down and *slept*. Not "The books are *laying* on the table," but *lying* there.

**Like** as a conjunction. Not "Walk just *like* I do," but *as*. You may say "He talks *like* a parrot," but not "like a parrot *does*." Also, "I feel *like* I can't sit up" and "It looks *like* it is going to rain" are distressingly common errors. Say *as if*!

**Most** for **almost**. Not "*Most* every time I recite I make that mistake," but *almost*. (This is a very common error).

**Much** better not be omitted after *too* or *very* in such expressions as "I was *too excited* to listen," or "The car was *very crowded*." Say "too *much* excited," etc.

**Myself** should not be used in the nominative case as subject of verb. Not "My cousin and *myself* went to the play," but "My cousin and *I*."

**Nicely** is popularly misused. "How do you do?" "*Nicely*, thank you"—or just "*Nicely*." Better say *Well*!

**Ones** can usually be avoided. "These flowers are fresher than *the ones* I brought yesterday." Say "than *those* I brought."

**Only** is often misplaced. It is safe to place *only* immediately before the word it modifies. Not "I have only been here a few days," but "been here *only* a few days." "I shall only stay till recess" should be "I shall stay *only* till recess."

**Plural verb** when speaking of a book the title of which is plural. Not "Are *Gulliver's Travels* in?" and "Where are Finley's *American Birds*?", but use *is* in each case.

**Quite**, meaning wholly, entirely, should not be used when *a little* is meant. Not "Quite a ways," but *a little way*, or *some distance*. Say *way*, also, and not *ways*, in the singular, with *a*.

**Raise** and **rise** must not be confused. Make the distinction between transitive and intransitive, the same as with *lay* and *lie*. Not "*Raise* on your toes," but *rise*. And "*raise* your hand."

**Real** as an adverb. One of the late dictionaries gives *real* as an adverb, but such expressions as "Have a *real* good time," are inelegant. *Very* no doubt is overworked, but we are safe in using it. Be *real* and be *brave*, but not "real brave"!

**Respectfully** and **respectively**. Be careful not to interchange and mis-

use these words: Not “Yours *respectively*,” and “They were graduated in the years 1907 and 1909 *respectfully*,” but vice versa.

**Shall** and **will** need not give so much trouble as they do. Just use *shall* for simple futurity: Not “I *won't* need my rubbers,” and “I *won't* be able to come to-morrow,” but *sha'n't*. And when asked if you will bring a book, don't say “Yes, I *shall*, but *will*.” Then do not say to any one of whom you do not wish to ask the favor, “*Will* you be here after school?” Say, rather, “*Shall* you be” etc. And do not say “I *shall* now read,” as *shall* must have futurity. *Will* expresses, or may express, wish, intention, or willingness, and it is better to say “I *will* read from”—or “I *will* read the”—etc.

**Some** for **somewhat**, or **a little**. Not “He is some better,” but *some-what* better. And “I play a *little*,” not “I play *some*.”

**So** not **as**, in negative comparisons. “This is not *nearly* so long as I expected” is better than “This is not *near as* long.”

**Start in** for **begin** or **commence**. “If I *start in* to tell you” would better be “If I *begin*” etc. “I *started in* to go to school.” Say “I *began* to go to school,” or “I *commenced* going to school.”

**Those kind and these kind**, for *that* and *this* kind, or those and these *kinds*, seem almost too common errors to be mentioned here.

**Try and** not to be used for *try to*. "I will *try to* be here early," not "I will *try and* come."

**Verbs** in present tense used for past. Perhaps the most grievous errors are in the use of *begin*, *come*, *run*, and *see*. Not "And then I *begin* to see he was gaining on me," but "I *began* to see" etc. And "when I *come* upstairs you had gone home," should be "when I *came*." "Then I *run* as fast as I could"—instead of "I *ran* as fast" etc. "But I *see* him coming before I reached the top" for "I *saw* him coming." These serious errors occur most frequently in offhand speaking, and in reporting what took place in past time.

**We**, as object of preposition. Not "Several of *we* girls went on the excursion," but "Several of *us* girls."

**Well**, when beginning to speak. Do not habitually preface your remarks with "Well—or still worse, "Wool" or "Wul"; nor with "Say;" nor with the popular but ill-timed "Listen"!

**Without**, as a conjunction. Not "I can't talk *without* you all keep still and listen," but "*unless* you keep still."



**You was** is always wrong. Say “*Were* you there?” And “You *were* here early.”

Finally, reversing the usual order, the *worst* has been saved for the *last*!

**I says**

**It don't**

**There's four mistakes**

**Any person can correct them if they try**

These are among the most serious errors in our spoken English to-day.

*I says*, occurs most often in story-telling, or in otherwise reporting things that happened in past time. Not “And then she *says* ‘Who's here?’ and I *says*, ‘Tim.’” Use *said*. *He says*, to represent past time, and *they says*, are equally bad.

We need only to expand the contraction *don't* to be convinced that *he don't*, *she don't*, *that don't* are as bad as *it don't*. Use *doesn't*.

Think of what is to follow, when you begin a sentence with *There is*—whether a singular or a plural subject. Say “*There were* four mistakes,” not “*There was* four,” etc.

*Any person—if they* is, perhaps, the most common error of all. Some day we may have a new pronoun, in the common gender, to use in such sentences—*thon*, or some more euphonious word—but until we do have it we must take care in the use of those we have. It seems simple, and easy enough, to think to follow *person*, or

any other singular antecedent, by a singular pronoun to represent it—*he*, or *he or she*; but preferably *he*.

If *anybody* has the book will *he* bring it to the desk?

*Every one* must do *his* best!

*Any person* can correct the everyday errors herewith concluded if *he* or *she* will try!













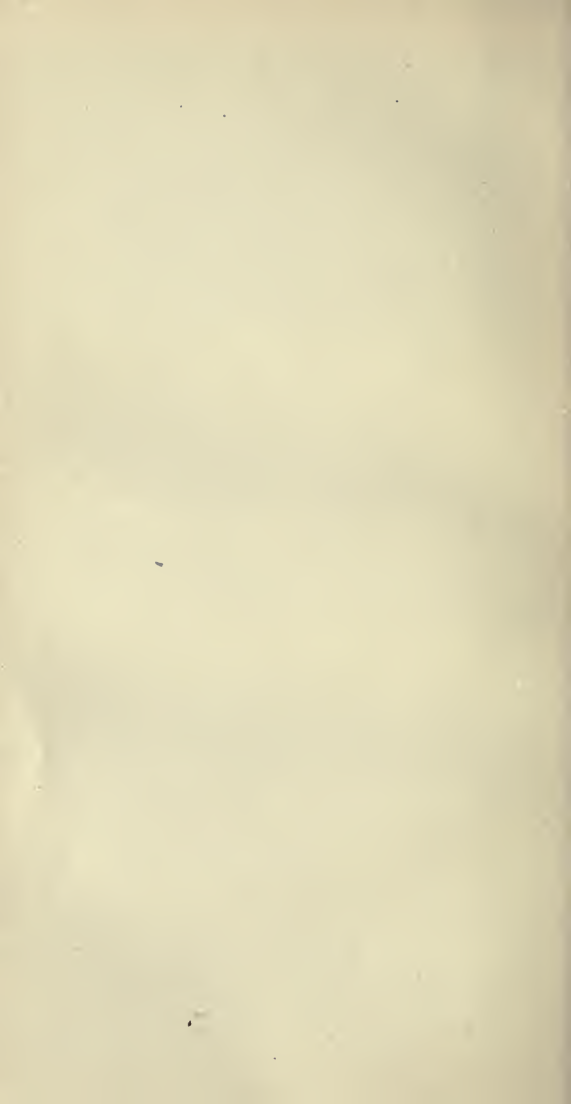






















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# EVERYDAY ERRORS

