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Made Easy Series

SPELLING MADE EASY

BY

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Spelling Made Easy

PREFACE

Through the ages, the skilled diplomat has usually been a skilled liar. In that fact is to be found an explanation of Talleyrand's witticism, that language is given us for the purpose of concealing thought.

Of course, in this case, as in many others, the wit depends on an exact inversion of the truth.

Language is for the purpose of interpreting thought. It is the method by which one person communicates his ideas to another. This is the first and the last essential of language. Its other qualities are comparatively unimportant. All the

graces and elegancies of spoken or written words are really superfluities—delightful refinements, it may be, but none the less wholly outside the actual requirements. The prime objective of language is attained when by it thought is transferred.

Naturally then, rules are comparatively unimportant except as they sum up positive necessities for clear expression. The niceties of rhetoric and the finical details of grammar are by no means always required for the lucid expression of ideas. A lady, passing along the street of cottages, noticed a little girl on the walk industriously mothering three younger children. From a window at the head of the street, a woman was shouting, "Jenny!"

The lady took it for granted that this was the mother of the little girl, who, however, paid no attention to the repeated calls.

"Your mother wants you," she said pleasantly.

The child answered quite amiably:

"Her ain't a-callin' we—us don't belong to she."

There is no grammar in that sentence. But Cicero, with all the exactness of classical Latin at his command, could not have expressed a thought more clearly.

It so happens, in this particular instance, that the idea is presented with clarity in spite of the atrocious distortion from accepted forms of speech. Nevertheless, there is always danger of confusion when any change from the established order is made. Language has been a slow growth. Everywhere, it has been added to little by little through the centuries, with every new development carefully tested and proved practical by use. All its rules and regulations are no more than a summary of its facts as justified by experience. Language gives no heed to the arbitrary suggestions of theorists. It springs from necessity, and fattens on use. It is, indeed, the inchoate property of every person, and the greater the intelligence of any individual, the more

nearly complete is his actual possession of its treasure. But, essentially, it is the common property of all. There can never be any escape from the basic truth that language is for the transference of ideas. Were a Demosthenes to lavish a vocabulary containing thousands of words on a peasant group knowing only five hundred, he would inevitably fail to convey his thoughts to them; his verbiage could only muddle their wits. He might stir their emotions by the music of his voice, might thrill them by the passion of his tones, might even sway them to his will; but he could not insinuate his ideas into their understanding unless he limited his speech strictly to the five hundred words contained in their vocabulary. Oratory, as such, is going out of fashion. We are coming to appreciate the fact that its art is often dangerous, since it may rule over the emotions of men in contempt of their intelligence.

Because language is a mutual thing, it

demands agreement on the part of all concerned. Such agreement is usually automatic, the result of conditions, a growth from convenience. Nowadays, all concerned are agreed in calling a chief domestic servitor the butler,* even though he may preside over a prohibition household, and juggle only with bottles of grape-juice.

The history of language is a narrative of small beginnings and ceaseless growth. The significance of words and the forms for their employment have been universally determined by simplicity and convenience. The authoritative quality of language has depended always on the general agreement of the community as to those forms of speech adequate for a clear expression of ideas. Oftentimes, one community chooses methods that are refused by another. Out of such local prejudices, dialects arise. Towns, provinces, states, have their individual peculiarities of lan-

* Bottler.

guage; often so exaggerated as to make them unintelligiblè even to their nearest neighbors, professing a common tongue. In all of the older nations, such differences in dialect abound. Indeed, the measure of antiquity is also the measure of divergence. The older the country, the more violent the disagreements in speech between one place and another. Such local variations are unimportant in Australia or Canada, or in our own country, because these communities are yet young, and, too, because the populations have been unstable, constantly intercommunicating. But we find the rule illustrated even within our borders by isolated sections. Thus, the distinctive dialect of the Southern mountaineers has attained some degree of prominence in our literature.

Just as a common consent has determined the meaning of spoken words and the forms best adapted to their use, so a mutual agreement has fixed upon certain methods of spelling, in order that there

should be that uniformity which is essential to intelligibility. Slight differences of pronunciation, which are not very important, are magnified and intensified when they are written down. For example, one person pronounces *you* correctly, while another gives a flat vowel sound. The oral difference is hardly noticed, but it becomes glaring when set down in writing —the difference between *you* and *yew*. I have known writers who put *yew* into the mouths of their rustic characters, in happy ignorance of the fact that they thus wrote down their own pronunciation of the pronoun.

Because the inaccuracies of pronunciation by the individual are always present, there can never be any safe system of phonetic spelling. The variations in the sound would inevitably corrupt the written language. In conversation, a speaker may clip the phrase, "It is enough!" to a single syllable, and yet make his meaning perfectly clear to the auditor. But the result

might be fairly in doubt were he to write "Snuff!" There is, in truth, no end to the confusions and absurdities that would result from any attempt to introduce a phonetic spelling. Even the simplified spelling of recent years illustrates the folly of such efforts, since in some instances it exploits mispronunciation as a virtue.

The spelling of the words in our language is of vital importance, because thus, and thus only, we can preserve it in purity. We may vary pronunciations, as, indeed, we do vary them infinitely, without harm to the integrity of our tongue, but we must hold fast to preciseness in the written word. Otherwise would come quick chaos. Phonetically, it would be quite right to set down a friend's greeting of Beau Brummel as "Hello, bo!" but that spelling might give a wrong impression to the reader. Any individual choice in the matter of spelling must create confusion.

The varieties of sound represented by

both the consonants and vowels in our language are astounding. Certain words having no more than two syllables may be spelled phonetically in several thousand different ways. That learned philologist, Professor Ellis, of Cambridge, who must have enjoyed extraordinary resources in leisure, in industry and in ingenuity, contrived almost six thousand different phonetic spellings of the one word *scissors*. The fact is a sufficient commentary on the vagaries of a phonetic orthography.

It is only a few generations since the evils of such variety were flagrantly displayed in ordinary correspondence. Then, the lexicographers began the great task of establishing order. To-day, as the result of their labors, we are able to determine the right spelling of any word in the language by turning to a dictionary. Thus we have enforced, with infinite pains, a uniformity that insures at once the convenience and the safety of our tongue, both written and spoken. It is a great pity that

any encouragement should be given to setting up novel forms of spelling on the false plea of simplicity, and thereby creating a tendency back toward that disorder from which the language has so recently emerged.

Curiously enough, those simplified spellings urged by such literary authorities as Andrew Carnegie and his followers have in each case been changes from forms perfectly familiar to everyone able to read and write. Thus, the single letter *t* has been substituted for the ending *ed*, in spite of the fact that the accepted form was not only familiar to all, but also logically exact, and simpler according to the spirit of the language than its phonetic substitute of a single letter.

We may be thankful that, by grace of the dictionaries, we have the body of our speech completely defined and its forms authoritatively determined. Moreover, a careful study of the subject brings to us a conviction that the spelling is not such a

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fixed in memory. For accurate knowledge concerning these, the student must be acquainted with the principles involved. Most of those words that occasion difficulties in the spelling are readily classified, and, once classified, their spelling is made sure by the rules governing them.

In the pages that follow, I shall set forth a few brief principles that have to do with spelling. An understanding of these will clear away the perplexities that most commonly confront the poor speller. They may be readily learned, and, when learned, they are easy of application in the generality of doubtful cases. Mastery of them will give the student a satisfying sense of accuracy as to his spelling, and, too, will usually relieve him from the tedious necessity of consulting a dictionary in case of doubt.

In addition, for general guidance, I shall give in alphabetical order a list of the most common words peculiar in their spelling, of a class not covered by the

broader principles of spelling as summed in the rules.

I believe that this combination, of general principles and list of particular words, will prove a sufficient guide to accurate spelling in all ordinary circumstances, and will make reference to the dictionary, if not wholly unnecessary, at least of gratifying infrequency.

THE RULES

E MUTE BEFORE A VOWEL

On one occasion, I might have been "hopping mad"; but, luckily, I was merely amused. It was necessary for business reasons that I should have an interview with a man for whom I entertained little liking. I dictated a letter to him, in which the last sentence was:

"I am hoping to see you soon."

My secretary made the line read:

"I am hopping to see you soon."

The secretary possessed vague ideas, excellent in intention, but objectionable in application. It is true that a consonant is sometimes doubled before the termination *ing*. The rule in that connection will be given in due course.

But, in the meantime, there is another rule to be considered, and it is one that, had she availed herself of it, would have saved my secretary from an absurd mistake. This rule has to do with words of the class in which *hope* is included.

If a word ends in e *mute, the* e *is dropped when a termination beginning with a vowel is added.*

Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, as there are to most rules, but it holds in practically all cases, so that the writer following it will be safeguarded from a very common error. Thus, the mute *e* is dropped from the word *hope* when *ing,* a termination beginning with a vowel, is added, and the resulting word is *hoping* —not *hopping*. So, too, the derivative from *sale* is *salable,* not *saleable,* as it is quite commonly written. The rule also applies, it should be understood, in the case of a word like *true,* when such an

ending as *ism* is added, and we have *true, truism*. Other examples of the application of this rule are offered by such words as *guide, guidance; use, usage; fleece, fleecy,* and innumerable others.

It should be noted that, in the case of some exceptions, the mute *e* is retained in order to protect the pronunciation of the word. Illustrations of this are afforded by the words *hoe, shoe* and *toe,* where the *e* is retained before the ending of the present participle, *ing*. So we have *hoeing, shoeing* and *toeing*. The forms *hoing, shoing* and *toing* might easily lead to confusion in the matter of pronunciation, and for that reason they are avoided.

In another class of words, the *e* is retained in order to differentiate them from words of different meaning, with which they would be identical in form, were the *e* dropped.

I give some examples of such words

in the left column below, and in the right column the words from which they are distinguished by the retention of the mute *e*:

Dyeing	*Dying*
Singeing	*Singing*
Springeing	*Springing*
Swingeing	*Swinging*

Another class of exceptions for the sake of insuring a correct pronunciation has to do with a mute *e* following either *c* or *g*, which is retained before a termination beginning with *a* or *o*. By this means, the soft pronunciation of the consonant is retained, where otherwise it would be made hard. Examples of this are such words as *notice, noticeable; change, changeable; outrage, outrageous; advantage, advantageous;* and the like.

The words *lineage, lineal* and *pineal* retain the *e* because they are derived from

the Latin forms, *linea, linealis* and *pinea;* not from the English forms, *line* and *pine.*

The mute *e* is commonly retained in the word *mileage.*

A slight examination of the foregoing exceptions to the rule will show the student how few they are, and how easy of mastery. In consequence, the rule itself is of prime importance. Equipped with it, the writer will find himself the possessor of knowledge that is exact in a great number of cases where hitherto he may have been troubled by doubts.

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Argue	*Argument*
Awe	*Awful*
Due	*Duly*
True	*Truly*

The words, *abridgment, acknowledgment, judgment, lodgment, nursling, wholly,* and *wisdom,* are exceptions to the rule.

DOUBLING A FINAL CONSONANT

I have said of my secretary, who described me as hopping along so merrily, that she had some vague apprehension of a principle, which she applied wrongly. That principle has to do with the doubling of a final consonant in monosyllables, or in words having the accent on the last syllable, when a termination beginning with a vowel is added. The rule is:

In monosyllables, or words having the accent on the final syllable, when the last letter is a consonant following a single vowel, the consonant is doubled before terminations beginning with a vowel.

The aspirate *h*, and *x*, which is a double consonant, make only seeming exceptions to this rule.

Examples are:

Abet	*Abetted*
Bag	*Baggage*
Begin	*Beginning*
Hot	*Hotter*
Infer	*Inferred*
Plan	*Planning*
Wit	*Witty*

The reason for this rule is the necessity of indicating that the short sound of the vowel is retained after the addition of the termination for the derivative. Thus, with the word *plan*, the doubling of the *n*, when *ing* is added, guards against the uncertainty that would result were it to be written *planing*—an uncertainty having to do with both pronunciation and meaning.

Exceptions to this rule are all those words in which *u*, following *q*, precedes the vowel of the accented syllable.

The most familiar illustrations are given by the word *quit* and its compounds, in

which the final *t* is doubled, although the vowel *u* precedes the *i*, and in the words beginning with *squ*, such as *squat*.

The foregoing exception to the rule is not a real departure from the principle involved. But there is a real departure in the case of derivatives from the word *gas*. *Gassing* and *gassy* are the only ones that follow the rule by doubling the *s*; the others use only the single *s*, as in *gaseous*, and the like.

It should be noted that the rule does not apply when, in the derivative word, the accent is thrown back. Thus, in such a word as *prefer'*, the *r* at the end is doubled before a termination beginning with a vowel, if the accent remains on the same syllable. When it does not, but is thrown back, the *r* is not doubled. Instead of saying prefer'rence, we say pref'erence, and write it with a single *r*. So, too, with defer' and def'erence, and the like, where the accent is changed.

In a number of instances, there are variations from the rule due to the derivation of the word. For convenience, we have dropped an *l* from the ending of the verb *excel*, but we have retained the two *l's* of the Latin *excellens* in our word *excellence*. *Chancellor* is a similar exception, as are the words *crystalline*, *crystallize*, *metalloid* and *metallurgy*. The word *tranquillity* has the two *l's* of the Latin *tranquillitas*. But our derivatives from the English *tranquil* are rightly written with the single *l*, as in *tranquilize*, etc.

The converse of the foregoing rule may be stated as follows:

When the final consonant of a word is preceded by a diphthong, or when the accent is on any syllable not the last, or when the final consonant is preceded by a consonant, that final consonant is not doubled before terminations beginning with a vowel.

This rule is a cumbersome one, and it is given only for the sake of completeness. As a matter of fact, it is not necessary that it should be memorized. But the rule already given as to the doubling of the final consonant should be thoroughly mastered. Once that is done, it will be found that a knowledge of when to double the consonant necessarily carries with it a knowledge of when not to do so, which is formally stated in the rule just given.

Some heed to it is, nevertheless, advisable, since it will serve to fix attention on one very common error, the doubling of the *l* in such words as *travelling, imperilling, quarrelling,* and the like, and the similar doubling of other final consonants in unaccented syllables before a termination beginning with a vowel.

In this particular, the usage in England differs from that in the United States. The British custom is to double the consonant; it is our custom not to double it.

There are a few among us who prefer the British form, and habitually employ it. But the whole tendency is toward the elimination of the unnecessary consonant, and the student would do well to adopt the simpler spelling, which is thoroughly in accord with the spirit of the language.

For the sake of clearness in this connection, I append an illustrative list containing examples of those words in which the terminal consonant of an unaccented syllable is not doubled before a termination beginning with a vowel.

Appareling	*Gamboling*
Canceling	*Groveling*
Caviling	*Kidnaping*
Caroling	*Labeling*
Chiseling	*Leveling*
Counseling	*Libeling*
Cudgeling	*Marshaling*
Disheveling	*Marveling*
Driveling	*Modeling*
Enameling	*Paralleling*

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ADDED K

When a word ends in c, k ***is added before a termination beginning with*** e, i ***or*** y.

The reason for this rule is purely a matter of pronunciation. Since *c* usually has the sound of *s* before the vowels *e*, *i* and *y*, it is necessary, when it has the hard sound, like *k*, at the end of a word, to add a *k* before terminations beginning with *e*, *i* or *y*, so that the pronunciation shall remain unchanged.

Familiar examples are afforded by the words *traffic* and *panic*. In the word *traffic*, the participial ending *ing* requires the addition of a *k* to the *c*, so that we have the form *trafficking*. In the word *panic*, the adjectival ending *y* requires the addition of a *k* to the *c*, so that we have the form *panicky*.

DOUBLE CONSONANT RETAINED

When a word ends in a double consonant, this ending is commonly retained in derivatives made by adding one or more syllables.

Thus, the derivative *oddly* retains the double *d* of *odd*. So, too, the participle *ebbing* from the verb *ebb*, and the noun *stiffness* from the adjective *stiff*.

This rule in the past has included the double *l* in a large number of words, such as *skillful, willful, dullness, installment, thralldom, enrollment,* and the like. But the present use tends toward the dropping of one *l* in every case where the termination itself begins with a consonant. While

the custom is by no means universal at the present time, it is better to follow the simpler form of the single *l* in such words as *skilful, wilful, wilfulness, dulness, instalment, thraldom, enrolment,* and other words having analogous formations.

A distinct exception to the rule given above, as to the retention of a double consonant at the end of a word before terminations, is *pontiff,* in which the derivatives have only a single *f,* as in the words *pontific, pontifical,* etc.

It is hardly necessary to point out that where the termination is *ly,* two *l's* are deemed sufficient for the derivative, although a strict application of the rule would give three. For example, when *ly* is added to the word *dull,* we write *dully,* not *dullly.*

DOUBLE CONSONANTS

F *or* **l** *or* **s**, *at the end of a monosyllable after a single vowel, is doubled.*

Examples of the application of this rule are such one-syllable words as *all, bill, hill, till.*

Exceptions to the rule are the words *if, of, chef, clef, pal, sol, as, gas, has, was, yes, his, is, thus* and *us.*

Of course, the *s* is not doubled when it is the sign of the possessive case, nor when it is the sign of the third person singular of a verb. This fact explains that *his, was* and *is* in the exceptions given above are such in appearance only.

It should be borne in mind, also, that the rule does not apply to words taken

from foreign languages. For this reason, the words *chef, clef* and *sol* are properly to be regarded as outside the rule on account of their origin, rather than as exceptions to it.

B, d, g, m, n, p, v, t ***and z, at the end of monosyllables, are sometimes doubled.***

The most familiar instances of this are in the words *add, burr, butt, buzz, egg, err, fizz, fuzz, inn, mitt* and *purr.*

A consonant at the end of a word, following a diphthong or double vowel, is not doubled.

Examples are *door, feel, main, pail, broil, toil, haul, peat,* and the like.

In the word *guess,* the *u* is actually for the purpose of giving a hard sound to the *g;* it does not form a diphthong with the *e,* and for this reason the double *s* is not really an exception to the rule.

FINAL CK

When **c** ***follows the vowel in a mono-syllable, ending with the sound of*** **k**, **k** ***is added.***

Thus, we have *block, click, knock,* and a long list of similar words.

The rule is not applicable to a class of words taken from languages other than English, such as *lac, roc, sac.*

The word *arc* is an exception.

In words of more than one syllable, when any vowel other than **i** ***or*** **ia** ***is followed by*** **c**, **k** ***is added.***

Barrack, hammock, hillock and *wedlock* offer examples.

The words *almanac* and *havoc* are the only common exceptions. The usage in England, however, permits the addition of *k* to these words also.

Polysyllabic words ending in ic *or* iac *do not add* k.

The word *derrick* is an exception.

In earlier times, the *k* was universally written in such words as *musick, publick,* and the like.

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retain it in derivatives from this adjective, except in the comparative and superlative forms, *drier* and *driest*.

The *y* is retained in derivatives formed by adding the termination *ship*, as in the words *ladyship*, *secretaryship*, *suretyship*, etc.

The word *babyhood* is an exception.

In the possessive case of nouns singular ending in *y*, the *y* is of course retained, before the *'s*. For example, *somebody's*.

Words ending in y *preceded by a vowel retain the* y *before the termination of derivatives.*

Examples are *player*, from *play*; *swaying*, from *sway*; *obeyed*, from *obey*; *joyful*, from *joy*.

It should be noted that words ending in *uy* are not really exceptions to the rule,

since the *u* takes the place of *w*, serving as a consonant. Thus, the word *colloquy* has its plural *colloquies*.

Exceptions to the rule are found in the derivatives from *day, lay, pay, say, slay* and *stay* in the following forms: *daily, laid, paid, said* and *saith, slain* and *staid*. Compounds from these also substitute *i* for *y*.

The spelling with *y* is employed in the verbal form *stayed*.

The *y* of *gay* is often changed to *i* in derivatives, but the application of the rule is to be preferred in this case.

IE BEFORE ING

Where the termination ing ***is used to form derivatives from words ending in*** ie, ***the*** e ***being dropped (according to the rule for mute*** e), ***the*** i ***is changed to*** y.

The reason for this rule is the avoidance of the two *i's* which would otherwise result from the addition of the participial termination. So, instead of the form *liing* from the verb *lie,* we write *lying.* Other words of this sort are *dying,* from *die; hying,* from *hie; tying,* from *tie; vying,* from *vie,* and the like.

VOWEL RETAINED

When a syllable beginning with a vowel is added to a word having a vowel ending, such vowel ending is retained in the derivative.

Thus, from the verb *agree*, we have the participle *agreeing* and the adjective *agreeable;* from the verb *echo*, the participle *echoing;* from the verb *woo*, the participle *wooing*, etc.

It should be noted that, when such words end in silent *e*, they drop the final *e* in derivatives if the termination begins with a vowel. When the word ends in double *e*, one of the *e's* is dropped before a termination beginning with an *e*.

Of the former sort, an example is *sued*,

from *sue*. Of the latter sort, an example is *agreed*, from *agree*. This form, of course, is necessary in order to escape the awkwardness of three *e's* in succession.

It would be well for the student to consider in connection with this rule those already given concerning derivatives formed from words ending with the silent *e*, when the termination begins with a vowel; and, also, those derivatives formed from words ending in *ie*, when the termination is *ing*. These various rules, carefully pondered, will be found to cover a great proportion of the puzzles in spelling that are most common and perplexing.

PREFIX AND DOUBLE CONSONANT

Hitherto, in our examination of the spelling in derivative forms, we have been limited to those created by the addition of a termination. But there is also a rule of importance that has to do with derivatives formed by a prefix.

When one or more syllables are prefixed to words ending in a double consonant, the derivative retains both consonants.

Thus, when the word *fall* is used with the prefix *be*, the double *l* is retained, and we have the form *befall*. The like is true with *enthrall, enroll, foretell, fulfill,* and the like; and in all those instances where the prefix is *over* or *under, up* or *down,*

etc., which are so commonly used in our language for the formation of derivatives.

According to the rule, the derivative from *till,* made by adding the prefix *un,* should be written with a double *l, untill,* and it is, in fact, very often so written carelessly. It is, however, an exception to the rule, and it should be written with a single *l, until.*

In applying this rule, the student must not neglect to bear in mind also what has been earlier set forth in reference to a double consonant at the end of a word before terminations. The matter of the accent of the derivative and the nature of the termination, whether beginning with a vowel or with a consonant, are all to be carefully considered, and as carefully heeded in the final decision as to the correct spelling of any doubtful word.

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dropped in a long list of compounds; such as, *almighty, almost, alone, already, also, although, altogether* and *always.* A smaller number of compounds show the same abbreviation when the word *all* forms a termination, as in the words *withal, therewithal* and *wherewithal.*

The word *well* also suffers the elision of one *l* in some of its compound forms; of which the most familiar instances are the words *welcome* and *welfare.*

The word *mass,* when it is the termination in compound words, loses an *s.* Thus, we write *Christmas,* not *Christmass;* and the same method is followed in similar compound names for festival days of the church year, such as *Michaelmas, Candlemas,* etc.

The adjective *full* loses an *l* when it forms the termination of compound words that have become so common as to be no longer written with a hyphen. Examples

of this are such words as *beautiful, awful, hateful,* and all the long list having the same ending.

The student should note that in the case of nouns thus compounded with the adjective *full,* in which the resultant word drops an *l,* the plural is formed by the addition of an *s* at the end of the compound, not by writing the noun in the plural, followed by the adjective.

The plural of *cupful* is properly *cupfuls.* It is often written *cupsful* to indicate the plural, but this is an error, since the compound word has become so unified by use that it may be regarded now as a simple word, forming its plural simply by the addition of an *s* at the end.

The same principle regulates the formation of the plural in other words of similar origin, such as *basketful, handful,* and the great number of this sort.

The student should note also that the richness of the language is increased by

using two distinct forms in this connection. For example, when we speak of seven baskets full, we indicate the fact that there are seven different baskets, each filled. But when we refer to seven basketfuls, we merely measure a quantity represented by the filling of one basket seven times. To say that the thirsty man drank three cupfuls of water declares the quantity of water taken by him, without determining whether he drank from one cup, or from two, or from three.

Other words that are exceptions to the rule are the following: *chilblain,* in which one *l* is dropped from *chill; fulfill,* in which one *l* is dropped from *full; namesake,* in which the *'s* is dropped from *name's; neckerchief,* in which the *k* is dropped from *neck; numskull,* in which the *b* is dropped from *numb; pastime,* in which an *s* is dropped from *pass;* and *wherever,* in which the final *e* is dropped from *where.*

ABLE OR IBLE

One of the perplexities to disturb the speller in English has to do with the termination *able* or *ible*. The student is confronted by an almost endless list of adjectives in which the form varies. To him, it appears as if the *ble* were preceded by the vowel *a* or *i* quite indiscriminately, and he searches in vain for any sign that shall serve as a sufficient guide in determining the particular form of ending proper to an individual case.

As a matter of fact, there is no simple method of deciding generally the instances in which either the termination *able* or the termination *ible* is applicable. In this connection, there is nothing that will readily and adequately take the place of a classical education. The variation in our

English forms is traceable directly to the variation of the Latin forms from which our words are derived. It makes no difference that in a great number of cases the words have come to us indirectly, through the French. The variation remains, since the French adjectives themselves are drawn from the Latin, and follow the divergent usages of that language. A fair degree of familiarity with Latin affords a sufficient information as to the form to be applied in English for most words of this class.

The one other means of escaping perplexity in the matter is a very thorough acquaintance with the English forms themselves, which is only to be attained by long-continued study; more especially, by a wide reading, in which careful attention is given to the structure of words. Such attention is, indeed, a constant, though perhaps unobtrusive, study of spelling. As it is helpful in determining the proper

use of the terminations *able* and *ible*, so too, it is useful in fixing on the memory the right spelling of the language generally.

Many ingenious attempts have been made to formulate a simple rule by which to select the proper vowel for this termination; but such attempts have been futile, with a tendency to multiply errors rather than to decrease them. There is one rule that is simplicity itself, and only one.

Able *is the form added to words of Anglo-Saxon origin.*

In this rule, the application is distinctly limited to words not of Latin or French origin. Such words as *eat* and *laugh* belong to our primitive Anglo-Saxon speech. They are English words in the restricted sense of the rule. They thus take the ending *able*, and we have the adjectives *eatable* and *laughable*. Unfortunately, the appli-

cation of even this rule demands some skill in philology, since the student must be able to determine the source of any particular word under consideration.

In fine, the student should resign himself to the necessity of giving careful heed to the form of this termination whenever he sees it in his reading. He must seek so to establish his familiarity with the right usage that memory shall correctly guide spelling in every case, without any useless striving on his part for a simpler method of determining doubts.

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The common noun, the adjective and the abstract noun are uniform in the vowel of the termination.

Thus, we have the common noun *attendant,* and the adjective *attendant,* and the abstract noun *attendance.*

Where the usage varies in connection with words of the same root, a supplementary rule may be stated as follows:

The common noun ends in ant, *the adjective in* ent *and the abstract noun in* ENCE.

Thus, we have the common noun *dependant,* while the adjective is *dependent,* and the abstract noun is *dependence.* Another example is in the words *confidant, confident* and *confidence.*

Here, again, the difficulties of the case are readily resolved by one having the

advantages of a thorough training in Latin, since the terminations of this class beginning with *a* are indicative of an origin from the first conjugation of Latin verbs; while those terminations beginning with *e* are derived from the other three conjugations of that language.

IN OR EN

A great many persons have been troubled as to their choice of the prefix *in* or *en*. There is, in fact, absolutely no difference in meaning between these two forms, and there have been endless delay and confusion in the efforts to fix on either syllable in any particular case as that preferred. The *in* retains the Latin form exactly, while *en* presents the French modification of the Latin preposition—a modification that has to do with form only, and not in any way with significance. In a large number of instances, either of the two forms of the prefix is in good repute, as in the word *insure*, or *ensure*. The present tendency seems to be toward using *in*, rather than *en*, in

those words where the spelling has been variable.

Where either in *or* en *is permissible as a prefix,* in *is to be preferred.*

Nevertheless, in numerous words, *en* is firmly established as the only form allowable. With all such cases, of course, the rule has no concern. The word *envelope* offers an illustration, since it comes to us by way of the French, and is never written *invelope.*

ER OR RE

There has been a great deal of profitless dissension over the spelling of the final syllable in a large class of words: whether the ending should be *re* or *er*. Those persons of a conservative tendency of mind have argued strenuously in favor of *re*, declaring that this form is necessary in order properly to preserve the root of the word. On the other hand, those contending in behalf of *er* have insisted that the form, on account of its evident simplicity, is in better accord with the genius of our language; especially since no essential of the root is actually lost by the substitution of this ending for the other.

As in most similar cases, the authorities have been so evenly divided as to justify

the ordinary writer in making choice according to his own individual preference. But the present-day tendency is toward simplification where the change does not introduce objectionable novelties. It is this tendency that has set the seal of its approval on the simpler and more rational spelling *er,* to take the place of the artificial form *re.* So, we may state the rule:

In words having the last syllable variously spelled re ***or*** er, ***the preference should be given to*** er.

For example, we write *theater,* instead of *theatre.* In this spelling, we follow accurately the pronunciation of the word, which is always an advantage, since such correspondence is a valuable aid in preserving unity between the spoken and the written language. The French form of the word, *théâtre,* also, is justified by the same reasoning, for the French pronunciation sounds the *r* immediately after the *t*

that precedes it. But in English the sound of *r* comes after the short vowel sound of *e*, even when the *r* is written before the *e*. This inconsistency is avoided by the spelling *er*.

There are very few exceptions to the rule. The only ones of importance have to do with words in which *re* is retained in order to insure the hard pronunciation of *c* or *g*. Were the termination to be written *er* in such case, the consonantal sound would be softened before *e*, *c* would have the sound of *s*, while *g* would have the sound of *j*. So, for the sake of that same unity in speaking and writing for which we preferred *er* to *re*, we choose the termination *re* in a half-dozen familiar words:

Acre	*Nacre*
Chancre	*Massacre*
Lucre	*Ogre*

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form, *ize*. I give the list in order to safe-guard the rule by these exceptions to it.

Advertise	*Divertise*
Advise	*Emprise*
Apprise	*Enfranchise*
Catechise	*Enterprise*
Chastise	*Exercise*
Circumcise	*Exorcise*
Comprise	*Franchise*
Compromise	*Manumise*
Criticise	*Misprise*
Demise	*Premise*
Despise	*Reprise*
Devise	*Revise*
Disinfranchise	*Supervise*
Disfranchise	*Surmise*
Disguise	*Surprise*

It should be noted that the spelling in the simpler form is already frequently used for the word *criticize*.

These words with the spelling *ize* or *ise* are verbs for the most part. They are

chiefly derived from Greek words that have *iota zeta omega* for the ending. Some have their origin in French words terminating in *iser* or *ise*. The *ize* properly represents the Greek termination, and for that reason its use is warranted in most cases, apart from the advantages of simplicity. The two words *catechise* and *exercise* are exceptions.

The ending *ize* is naturally followed as a termination to English words, such as *memorize* and *bastardize*.

All of our words derived from the French verb *prendre*, through its participle *pris* or *prise*, use *ise* for the termination, and this applies to all the compounds from that source. Such words in the list of exceptions given above are *apprise*, *emprise*, *enterprise* and *surprise*. These words, undoubtedly, will be the last to be modified to the simpler method of spelling.

It should perhaps be pointed out that usage in England distinctly favors the termination *ise*, just as the usage in our own country inclines toward *ize*.

ID AND IN

There are many chemical terms that have been written with the ending *ide* and *ine*. At present, they are also commonly written without the final *e* of the two terminations. Thus, such words as *chlor-ide* and *iodide, fluorine* and *stearine,* may now be spelled properly without the final *e,* so that the forms are *chlorid* and *iodid, fluorin* and *stearin.*

In the chemical vocabulary, the terminations id *and* in *may be written instead of* ide *and* ine.

This class of words offers another illustration of the tendency toward simplification when it is possible without the creation of confusion as to the significance or

the pronunciation of the words involved. Here, no danger exists as to a resultant ambiguity in respect to either sound or sense. For that reason, the shorter form is to be preferred.

It is interesting to note that, in the past, there has been much variation in the usage having to do with these terms, and also that originally the shorter form of spelling was prevalent; then the *e* was added to the terminations by finicky writers, without any really good and sufficient reason. Now, this touch of needless artificiality is, fortunately, in a fair way to be rejected.

It is mildly amusing to consider the fact that *tannin,* though essentially a chemical word, has been so common that it never reached the spurious dignity of a final *e*.

OR AND OUR

There has long been foolish controversy as to the respective merits of the forms *or* and *our* for the termination in a great number of words. In England, a strong feeling has existed in favor of *our* rather than *or* in such words as *honour, labour,* and the many like. Advocates of this spelling have insisted that it was necessary in order to maintain the dignity and the purity of English as such, since the spelling *or* was distinctly that of the Latin ending, and therefore to be carefully avoided. The contest was won long ago in England by *our,* and this spelling is the correct form there to-day. In our own country, however, the simpler spelling made its appeal successfully. Our writers failed to be alarmed over the peril of using the Latin

style of ending in English words. They found it more convenient to write *or*, and so they wrote it, and it has become the general usage throughout the United States. Almost the only exceptions to the practise are in the case of publishers whose books are distributed in both Great Britain and America. They are, doubtless, influenced by the fact that in this country the spelling *our* provokes no particular attention, while across the water the spelling *or* might arouse unfavorable criticism as an attempt toward Americanization of the press. Yet, there still remain even in England a few writers who prefer the simpler form, *or*.

The ending or ***instead of*** our ***should be used in all cases.***

The word *glamour* is an exception. The reason for *our* in that word is to be found in its derivation, a study of which is not appropriate to this work.

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following *a* in certain words, such as *gage* and *stanch*, which hitherto have been commonly spelled *gauge* and *staunch*. All derivatives and compounds of these words also may follow the simpler spelling.

PED AND PEDE

The Latin word *pes, pedis, foot,* has led to various spellings when used as a termination for English words. Thus, *centipede* (hundred-footed) is written with a final *e;* while quadruped (four-footed) is written without a final *e.* It would seem, indeed, as if the smaller number of feet were rather contemptuously treated; for both *quadruped* and *biped* (the four-footed and the two-footed) are not given the dignity of the final *e,* which distinguishes *centipede* and *millipede* (the hundred-footed and the thousand-footed). For the sake of uniformity, the *e* at the end might well be omitted from all words in this class. The simpler usage has been advocated by some authorities, and it is practised by many writers, but it has not

been generally adopted. I therefore merely suggest the omission of the *e* in the following rule:

The termination pede *may be shortened to* ped.

PRACTISE

The word *practise* has been the subject of much contention in the matter of spelling, and the authorities of the present day are by no means harmonious in regard to it. Both the noun and the verb have been spelled *practice*. It is also the custom of many writers to spell the noun *practice*, while using the form *practise* for the verb. In view of the divergence of opinion, it seems advisable to reach that decision which offers most simplicity, which is in favor of the spelling *practise* for both the noun and the verb.

The spelling practise *is preferred for both the noun and the verb.*

CE OR SE

There has been variation as to the use of *ce* or *se* at the end of a number of words. Since the *s* is to be found in the sources from which these words are derived, it seems wiser to adopt the form containing it. This reason is the more convincing because no valid objection of any sort can be offered to such spelling.

Consequently, I make the rule specific in this instance.

The words defense, expense, offense *and* pretense *are properly thus spelled.*

It should be noted in favor of this spelling that *s* is uniformly used in derivatives from the words, as, for example, in *defensive* and *offensive.*

CT AND X

In the case of a class of verbs ending in *ct*, an attempt has been made to substitute *x* for the final consonants when adding *ion* to form the derivative noun. By such usage the nouns derived from the verbs *deflect, inflect* and *reject* are written *deflexion, inflexion* and *rejexion*. It is sought to justify the alteration on the plea of a greater simplicity. Unfortunately, however, the change is of too violent a sort, and not even adequate phonetically. A better simplicity is assured by retaining the *ct* in the derivative forms, so that the root structure of the word may be preserved.

The words **deflection, inflection** ***and*** **reflection** ***are properly so spelled.***

O WITH OR WITHOUT E

In monosyllables, not nouns, and in the last syllable of polysyllables, the vowel o *is not followed by* e.

Examples of this use are given by such words as *do, go, no* and *so.* None of these words, it will be observed, is a noun. And as the *e* is omitted from these monosyllables that are not nouns, so, also, it is omitted from polysyllables, even though they be nouns, such as *grotto, canto, tomato, potato,* and other words having the same vowel ending.

In monosyllabic nouns, the vowel o *is followed by* e.

We find illustrations of this rule in such words as *doe, foe, shoe* and *toe.*

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PLURAL FORMS

The plural of nouns is formed by the addition of s ***alone when the sibilant sound blends so easily with the word that the addition of another syllable is not required for easy pronunciation.***

This simple rule covers the bulk of the words in our language. Thus, we have *act, acts; claw, claws; conversation, conversations; dune, dunes; tack, tacks;* and so on through an almost interminable list.

But there are variations from the simplicity of the foregoing rule, of which the most important may be briefly stated as follows:

Some nouns ending in o, *preceded by a consonant, add* es *for the plural.*

Examples of this usage are found in the words *cargo, echo, embargo, motto* and *potato;* for which the plural forms are respectively *cargoes, echoes, embargoes, mottoes* and *potatoes.*

There is still further variation in this usage:

For nouns ending in o *preceded by a vowel, the plural is found by the addition of* s *alone.*

Illustrations as to the application of this rule are afforded by such plurals as *cameos* and *folios,* from the singular forms *cameo* and *folio.*

Some differences of style exist in the formation of the plurals for words ending in *i.* Many writers prefer the addition of *es* to the singular, while others are satisfied with *s* alone. It would seem that the cause of simplicity might be better served

by the employment of the shorter form. Therefore, I set down the rule thus:

Nouns ending in i *form the plural by adding* s.

Thus, the plural *alkalis* is to be preferred to that formed by the addition of *es, alkalies,* from the singular *alkali.*

When a singular noun has a consonantal ending, not followed by a mute e, *of a sort that will not blend easily with* s, *the plural is formed by adding* es.

Instances where this rule is applicable occur in words having such endings as *j, s, x, z, ch* and *sh.* By the use of *es,* the pronunciation is made easy through the addition of another syllable in the plural.

Examples of particular words covered by the rule are *church, gas* and *loss;* for which the plurals are respectively *churches, gases* and *losses.*

Words ending in any consonantal sound, followed by mute e, *add* s *alone for the plural.*

In these cases, the addition of *s* alone gives the new syllable required for ease in pronunciation, since the *e* hitherto mute is sounded with the *s*.

The rule covers all words in the class of *age, lace, maze,* and the like, in which the plural forms are respectively *ages, laces, mazes,* etc.

Singular nouns that end in y, *following a consonant, form the plural by changing* y *into* i, *and adding* es.

Examples are the plurals *armies,* from *army; ladies,* from *lady; mercies,* from *mercy; skies,* from *sky.*

This rule is applied also to words ending in *quy,* where the *u* has the value of a

consonant, so that such words, though seeming to be exceptions, are not so actually. The nouns *colloquy* and *obloquy* are examples, which in the plural are written *colloquies* and *obloquies*.

Singular nouns ending in y, *following a vowel, add* s *alone for the plural.*

Such words as *day, days; key, keys,* and the many similar, are of this class. It should be noted that the rule is not applied to words ending in *y*, preceded by *qu*, since, as already pointed out, the *u* in this combination has the value of a consonant, and is therefore to be regarded as outside the rule.

Where proper names end in *y*, preceded by a consonant, *ies* is commonly used as a plural form, but the plural is often written with the *y* retained, followed by an apostrophe and *s*. This second usage follows the general rule for the plural of

proper names, which will be given a little further on.

Some singular nouns ending in f, ff *or* fe *change the ending into* ves *to form the plural.*

The words of this class are not numerous, so that space may be given to a list of them:

Beef	*Beeves*
Calf	*Calves*
Elf	*Elves*
Half	*Halves*
Hoof	*Hooves*
Knife	*Knives*
Leaf	*Leaves*
Life	*Lives*
Loaf	*Loaves*
Self	*Selves*
Sheaf	*Sheaves*
Shelf	*Shelves*
Staff	*Staves*

Thief	*Thieves*
Turf	*Turves*
Wharf	*Wharves*
Wife	*Wives*
Wolf	*Wolves*

Not all of the words in the above list are uniformly written with the plural as thus given. Often, merely *s* is added without any other change. Thus, *staffs* is commonly used as the plural for *staff*. The use varies in the case of the word *wharf*, and it is permissible to use either *wharfs* or *wharves*, according to the individual taste. The tendency toward simplification in spelling would, however, give the preference to *wharfs*. The form *hooves* is rare in current writing, so that the use of it smacks of pedantry. *Hoofs* is a better form, because simpler. *Turves* is so infrequently seen that the old writing may well pass without rebuke; yet, even in this instance, the straightforward plural, *turfs*, is better. The other nouns

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German is a familiar example, with its plural, *Germans*.

Other words of this sort, however, are not so well known, and are often wrongly written in the plural with the ending *men*.

Such words are:

Cayman	*Caymans*
Desman	*Desmans*
Firman	*Firmans*
Mussulman	*Mussulmans*
Talisman	*Talismans*

Attention should be given to the fact that the ancient plural ending *en* still survives in the words *brethren, children* and *oxen,* from the singular nouns *brother, child* and *ox* respectively.

Obsolete plural forms are *hosen, shoon* and *housen,* from the singular nouns *hose, shoe* and *house.* The first of these, *hose,*

now stands the same for both singular and plural, while the others form their plural regularly by the addition of *s*.

Kine, once the plural of *cow*, is now obsolescent, though still occasionally encountered.

There are a few instances in which various forms of plurals carry various significations as well. Such is the case with the two plurals for *die*, for *brother*, for *pea*.

Dies serves as the plural for *die*, except when reference is made to the cubes used in games of chance. These are always called *dice*.

A curious corruption in the vernacular commonly employs this plural form, *dice*, instead of the singular, *die*.

In the case of the plural for *brother*, the two forms are *brothers* and *brethren*. *Brothers* is the designation given not only to those that are such by ties of blood,

but also to those joined by some other bond of union, as the fellow-members of a secret order, of a profession, and the like.

The associations of this plural are ordinarily secular, while those of the other, *brethren,* are distinctively religious. Thus, the members of a particular sect are termed *brethren,* and this form is usually employed in religious writings, even when referring to sons of the same parent. But this differentiation of the two terms is not always carefully observed.

The word *pea* has *peas* for the plural form when a definite number of the individual seeds is specified. The plural form for bulk measurement of them is *pease.*

In Great Britain, rather than in the United States, the word *penny* has two common plural forms, *pennies* and *pence.* *Pennies* is applied to the coins themselves as such, while their total is denominated *pence.* Thus, one might say:

"A man with only six *pennies* in his pocket must hunt a meal for *six-pence*."

In our country, the plural *pence* is rarely used. The crisp brevity of *cents* has rendered the older word superfluous.

The word *acquaintance* is often used as a plural instead of *acquaintances*. It serves as a collective noun. A total of one's individual *acquaintances* may be termed his *acquaintance*.

In a few instances, the names of animals have the same form in both singular and plural. Illustrations of this usage are familiar in such words as *sheep* and *deer*. The word *trout* has only the one form. But the word *fish* is unchanged for the plural or is written with *es* added.

Frequently, words taken from foreign languages retain their original plural forms, instead of taking an English plural. Some of the words, however, are written

with either their original plural, or with the English plural, according to the taste of the individual writer. The tendency toward simplification would favor the English form in such cases, but a contrary custom is so firmly fixed in connection with many words that the decision must be left to one's personal choice in each separate instance.

Some of the more familiar words from other languages that retain their original plural are given in the following list:

Automaton	*Automata*
Bandit	*Banditti*
Beau	*Beaux*
Bureau	*Bureaux*
Cherub	*Cherubim*
Crisis	*Crises*
Criterion	*Criteria*
Datum	*Data*
Focus	*Foci*
Formula	*Formulae*

Genus	*Genera*
Index	*Indices*
Larva	*Larvae*
Madame	*Mesdames*
Matrix	*Matrices*
Monsieur	*Messieurs*
Phenomenon	*Phenomena*
Portmanteau	*Portmanteaux*
Seraph	*Seraphim*
Stratum	*Strata*

Those words in which the English form of plural also is permissible are the following:

Automaton	*Automatons*
Bandit	*Bandits*
Beau	*Beaus*
Bureau	*Bureaus*
Cherub	*Cherubs*
Formula	*Formulas*
Index	*Indexes*
Portmanteau	*Portmanteaus*
Seraph	*Seraphs*

A very common error in the public prints is the employment of *phenomena,* the plural, as a singular noun, and the formation of an outrageous plural by the addition of *s.* And, too, those not having the advantage of a classical education sometimes go astray in their use of the word *strata,* the plural of *stratum.* Such persons seem to regard *strata* as a Latin noun of the first declension; for they write the plural *stratae.*

The student should give particular attention to the foregoing list of words from foreign languages, so as to protect himself from the influence of those perpetrating such blunders.

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The apostrophe with *s* is employed to indicate the repetition of single letters, of figures and of signs.

Thus we write, "The word *moon* contains two *o's*," or "Decimal progression is by *10's*."

The apostrophe with *s* indicates the possessive case. For example, "Man's happiness is God's care." But the apostrophe is omitted in *ours, yours, theirs, his, hers* and *its*.

The apostrophe serves also to show the elision of a letter from a word, or the elision of any number of letters in sequence. Thus, "Forgivin' cert'nly ain't forgettin'."

The word *sha'n't* is properly written with two apostrophes, one in place of the omitted double *l* in *shall,* and the other in place of the *o* in *not*. *Can't,* on the other hand, has only two letters, *no*

of *not*, left out, and a single apostrophe suffices.

While the possessive pronoun, *its*, is written without an apostrophe, the contraction for *it is* is written *it's*.

SUMMARY

The rules hereinbefore set forth cover in detail certain principles that determine the spelling of our language in many of its most familiar forms. The student should be at pains to make these rules his own, a practical and readily efficient part of his mental equipment. It is not enough that he should have a formal understanding of these principles, an intellectual appreciation of them as matters of scholarship. On the contrary, his comprehension of them must be of a vivid sort that is quick to perceive the relation of a rule to a particular word, and to prove its worth by its applicability in any given instance.

The student should by no means rest content with an exact memorization of

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variation. Each student has his own strength and his own weakness. He must criticise himself to such an extent that he becomes aware as to just where his individual weakness lies. Then he must seek zealously to gain strength wherever it may be required by persistent concentration on the pertinent rules. Moreover, such attention will reinforce memory. And the memory will be no longer merely a matter of somewhat tedious mechanics, for it will take on a new dignity, the dignity of understanding.

The student should cultivate also a habit of attention in his reading. It is not enough to look up the spelling of a word once and then trust to that limited memory alone. Whatever words offer difficulty should be carefully noted, and afterward scrutinized painstakingly whenever encountered in reading. By such repetitions, and by such repetitions only, is the memory made exact and fully dependable, and the accuracy of the spelling assured.

The Rules

The student would do well to devote some portion of his time to the list of words that follows. Undoubtedly, he will find a study of this short vocabulary distinctly advantageous to his ability in spelling.

The list is not meant to serve in lieu of a dictionary. It omits unusual, technical and scientific words as wholly foreign to its purpose, which is the clearing up of the more common perplexities.

Thus, the list includes such words as *reeve, leave, believe* and *deceive,* in which the same vowel sound is so variously interpreted by *ee, ea, ie* and *ei.* So, too, those words are given that have *ough* standing for an absurd diversity of sounds. The termination of agency, *er* or *or,* is given in a great number of instances in order to prevent one of the most frequent of errors. Likewise, particular attention has been given to those confusing endings, *ible* and *able.* Monosyllabic words ending in a single consonant are often included for the

sake of emphasizing the change in form before the vowel of a termination. Indeed, each and all of the words in the list have a sufficient reason for their presence there. Let the student con the selection patiently until its contents are transferred bodily and accurately to the tablets of his brain. Thus, he will soon establish a habit of thought that shall guide him safely through the perplexities of orthography. The reward of such industry will be a facility and an exactness in spelling of which he may well be honestly proud.

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Accordant *A.* *Administrable*

Accordant
Accordion
Accountable
Accretion
Accumulator
Accuracy
Accursed
Accuse
Accustom
Acerbity
Ache
Achievable
Achieve
Acid
Acidity
Acknowledge
Acknowledgment
Acoustic
Acquaint
Acquaintance
Acquiesce
Acquiescence
Acquirable
Acquirement
Acre
Actionable
Actor
Actualize
Adaptable
Addible
Addict
Addition
Address
Adducible
Adequate
Adherence
Adherer
Adieu
Adjacent
Adjourn
Adjurer
Adjustable
Adjutant
Administrable

Words Commonly Misspelled

Administrator *A.* *Aim*

Administrator
Admirable
Admirer
Admissible
Admittance
Ado
Adolescent
Adorable
Adorer
Adulator
Adulterer
Adversary
Adversity
Advertise
Advertiser
Advice (noun)
Advisable
Advise (verb)
Adviser
Adz
Aërial
Aëronaut

Affable
Affair
Affect
Affinity
Affirm
Affirmable
Affix
Affluence
Afford
Affront
Afterward
Aggrandize
Aggressor
Aggrieve
Aghast
Agitable
Agonize
Agreeable
Ague
Aid
Ailment
Aim

Aisle *A.* *Annul*

Aisle
Alacrity
Albino (albinos)
Alibi
Alien
Alignment
All (everyone)
Allegiance
Allegory
Alleviate
Alliance
Alligator
Allot
Allowable
Allowance
Allude
Allure
Almond
Altar
Amateur
Amaze
Ambulance
Amenable
Amendable
Amendment
Amiable
Amicable
Amity
Amorous
Amphibian
Amphitheater
Amplify
Anachronism
Analogy
Analysis
Analyze
Analyzer
Anchor
Anglicize
Ankle
Anniversary
Annotator
Annoy
Annul

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Ark *A.* *Attain*

Ark (boat)
Armor
Armorer
Arraignment
Arrangement
Arrest
Arrive
Arson
Artisan
Ascend
Ascendant
Ascendency
Ascent
Ascribable
Askance
Aspirant
Assailable
Assassin
Assault
Assay
Assayer
Assembly

Assent
Assert
Assess
Assessable
Assessor
Assiduity
Assignable
Assimilate
Assistance
Associate
Assort.
Assuage
Assume
Assurance
Aster
Asthma
Astrologer
Astronomer
Asylum
Attachable
Attack
Attain

Words Commonly Misspelled

Attainable *A.* *Aye*

Attainable
Attemptable
Attendance
Attest
Attire
Attitudinize
Attorney
Attract
Attributable
Attrition
Audible
Audience
Auditor
Auger (tool)
Augur (diviner)
Augury
Auspicious
Austere
Austerity
Author
Authorize

Autograph
Auxiliary
Available
Avalanche
Avarice
Avenue
Aver
Aviary
Avocation
Avoidable
Avouch
Avowable
Awarder
Awe
Awful
Awl (tool)
Ax
Axis (axes)
Ay (yes)
Aye (ever)

Babbler *B.* *Birth*

Babbler
Babyhood
Babyish
Bachelor
Backward
Bag
Bail (surety)
Bailable
Balance
Bale (bundle)
Bankable
Bankruptcy
Banquet
Baptize
Barbarize
Barbecue
Bargainer
Barge
Baritone
Baron
Basal
Battalion

Beacon
Bearable
Beech (tree)
Beggar
Begin
Beginner
Beginning
Belief
Believe
Belligerent
Bendable
Berth (bed)
Better (superior)
Bettor (who bets)
Bevel
Biennial
Big
Bigamist
Bigger
Bigotry
Binder
Birth (origin)

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Calculable *C.* *Cession*

Calculable
Calculator
Calendar (almanac)
Calender (smooth)
Caliber
Callous (adjective)
Callus (noun)
Campaign
Camphor
Candor
Canker
Canonize
Canto (cantos)
Canvass (examine)
Capable
Capital (city)
Capitol (building)
Captor
Carat (weight)
Carcass
Caret (mark)
Carmine
Carriable
Carrier
Carrot (vegetable)
Carver
Cast (throw)
Caste (class)
Caster
Catarrh
Catchable
Catcher
Catsup
Catechise
Causable
Cauterize
Ceiling
Celebrator
Censer (incense-pan)
Censor (critic)
Center
Centiped
Cession (yielding)

Challengeable *C.* *Coalesce*

Challengeable
Challenger
Chancellor
Changeable
Chaperon
Character
Characterize
Chargeable
Charitable
Charter
Chateau
Cheater
Chief
Chimera
Chintz
Choir (singers)
Choler
Chooser
Chord (in music)
Christen
Cicatrize
Cinder
Cipher
Circuit
Circumcise
Cistern
Cite (summon)
Civilize
Civilizer
Clacker
Claimable
Clamor
Clangor
Clap
Cleansable
Clearance
Climb (mount)
Clime (climate)
Clinker
Clutch
Coadjutor
Coagulable
Coagulator
Coalesce

Coarse	*C.*	*Compromise*
Coarse (gross)		Commensurable
Coaster		Commentator
Cocoa		Communicable
Coerce		Commutable
Coercible		Companionable
Coffer		Comparable
Cognac		Comparative
Cognizable		Compatible
Coherence		Compellable
Coincidence		Competence
Colander		Competitor
Colic		Complainer
Collectible		Complaisant
Collector		Compliable
Colonize		Comportable
Colorable		Composer
Combinable		Compositor
Combustible		Compounder
Comfortable		Comprehensible
Comforter		Compressible
Commemorable		Comprise
Commendable		Compromise

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Constrainer *C.* *Corps*

Constrainer
Constructer
Consulter
Consumable
Consumer
Consummate
Containable
Contender
Contestable
Continent
Contingent
Continuance
Continuator
Contractible
Contractor
Contributor
Contrivable
Contrivance
Contriver
Controllable
Controller
Controvertible

Convalescent
Convenient
Convergence
Conversable
Conversant
Converter
Convertible
Conveyance
Conveyancer
Conveyer
Convincible
Co-operator
Copier
Coquet (verb)
Coquette (noun)
Coral (formation)
Cord (string)
Cornucopia
Coroner
Corporal
Corporeal
Corps

Words Commonly Misspelled

Corpse *C.* *Currant*

Corpse
Corral (inclosure)
Corrector
Correspondent
Corridor
Corrigible
Corrodible
Corrupter
Corruptible
Cote (hut)
Coterie
Cough
Councilor
Counselor
Counterfeit
Course (run)
Courtesy
Coward
Cozy
Creak
Crease
Creator
Credence
Credible
Creditable
Creditor
Creeper
Crescent
Crier
Criterion (criteria)
Criticise
Crotch
Cruiser
Crusader
Crutch
Crystallize
Culpable
Cultivable
Cultivator
Cupboard
Cupola
Curator
Curb
Currant (fruit)

Current *C.* *Cynic*

Current (stream)
Customary
Cynic

Dabbler *D.* *Defeasible*

Dabbler
Daintily
Dalliance
Dallier
Damageable
Damnable
Dangler
Dastard
Daŭber
Daze
Dear (beloved)
Debaser
Debatable
Debater
Debaucher
DebŬity
Debonair
Debtor
Decadence
Decanter
Decease
Deceive
Deceiver
Decent (proper)
Decidable
Declaimer
Declinable
Decomposable
Decrepit
Dedicator
Deducible
Defamer
Defaulter
Defeasible

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Designer *D.* *Discern*

Designer
Desirable
Despair
Desperado (desperadoes)
Despicable
Despondent
Destroyer
Destructible
Detainer
Determinable
Detestable
Detractor
Detrimental
Device
Devisable
Deviser
Dew (moisture)
Diaeresis
Diameter
Diamond
Diaphragm
Diarrhea
Dictator
Dictum (dicta)
Die (dice)
Difference
Diffidence
Diffuse
Diffusible
Digestible
Dilapidate
Dilatable
Diligence
Diphthong
Directör
Disable
Disagreeable
Disallowance
Disappearance
Disapprove
Disarrange
Disarray
Discern

Words Commonly Misspelled

Discernible D. Divergence

Discernible
Disclaimer
Discommode
Disconnect
Discordance
Discountable
Discountenance
Discoverable
Discoverer
Discreditable
Discrepant
Discuss
Disencumbrance
Disfranchise
Disguise
Dishevel
Disk
Dismissal
Dispatch
Dispensable
Dispenser
Disposable
Disposer
Dispossess
Disputable
Disputer
Disreputable
Dissectible
Dissector
Dissembler
Dissenter
Dissolvable
Dissolvent
Dissonance
Distance
Distill
Distiller
Distinguishable
Distributable
Distributer
Disturbance
Disturber
Diver
Divergence

Dividable *D.* *Durance*

Dividable
Divider
Divisible
Divisor
Docility
Dodge
Doe
Dogmatize
Dogmatizer
Dolor
Domicile
Dominant
Donkey
Donor
Dormant
Douche
Dough
Douse
Dower
Downward
Doze
Draft
Drainable
Dramatize
Drawer
Dreadnaught
Dreamer
Dredger
Dresser
Drier
Driest
Drinkable
Drinker
Drouth
Drover
Drowse
Drunkard
Dryly
Due (owed)
Dullard
Dunce
Duplicity
Durable
Durance

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Eminence *E.* *Ether*

Eminence
Emissary
Emperor
Emphasize
Employer
Emulator
Enable
Enameler
Encumbrance
Encyclopedia
Endeavor
Endurable
Energize
Engraver
Engrosser
Enjoyable
Enough
Enrolment
Enterprise
Entertainer
Entice
Enticer
Envelop (verb)
Envelope (noun)
Enviable
Equable
Equalize
Equator
Equitable
Equivalent
Equivocator
Erasable
Erosion
Erratum (errata)
Erroneous
Error
Erysipelas
Esculent
Espousal
Espouse
Esthetics
Estimable
Etch
Ether

Etiquette *E.* *Extortioner*

Etiquette
Eulogize
Euphony
Evangelize
Exaggerate
Excel
Excellence
Exceptionable
Exchangeable
Excitable
Excrescence
Excruciating
Excusable
Execrable
Executioner
Executor
Exercise
Exhalable
Exhaustible
Exhibiter
Exhorter
Exigent
Existence
Exorbitant
Exorcise
Expansible
Expectant
Expedient
Experimenter
Expiable
Explainable
Explicable
Exportable
Exporter
Expose
Expressible
Extant
Extemporize
Extensible
Exterior
Exterminator
Extinguishable
Extinguisher
Extortioner

Extractor *E.* *Eying*

Extractor
Extraordinary
Extravagance
Extricable

Exuberant
Exultant
Eying

Fabricator *F.* *Feign*

Fabricator
Façade
Facile
Facility
Factor
Fagot
Faint (swoon)
Fallacious
Fallacy
Fallible
Falsity
Familiarize
Fanatic
Fane (temple)
Fantasia

Fantasy
Farrago
Fascinate
Fashionable
Fasten
Fastidious
Faun (deity)
Favorable
Fawn (young deer)
Feasible
Feat
Feeble
Feeder
Feeler
Feign (pretend)

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Fogy *F.* *Fugitive*

Fogy (noun)
Forage
Forbear
Forbearance
Forbid
Forcible
Fordable
Forebode
Foreigner
Forfeit
Forfeitable
Formality
Formative
Formidable
Forward
Foul (adjective)
Fountain
Fowl (noun)
Fowler
Fragrance
Frail
Franchise
Frangible
Fraternize
Fraudulent
Fraught
Freak
Freeze (verb)
Freight
Freighter
Frenzy
Frequenter
Friable
Fricassee
Friend
Frieze (noun)
Frippery
Friskiness
Frivolous
Frolic
Frontage
Frouzy
Frugality
Fugitive

Fulfill F. *Fuzz*

Fulfill
Fulfilment
Fulness
Fumbler
Functionary
Fundamental
Funeral (noun)
Funereal (adjective)
Fungous (adjective)
Fungus (noun)
Furlough
Furnisher
Furniture
Furtherance
Fuse
Fusible
Fuzz

Gadder G. *Gayly*

Gadder
Gage
Gallant
Galléry
Gallop
Galvanize
Gambler
Gamut
Gantlet
Gap (noun)
Gape (verb)
Garden
Gardener
Garrulity
Gaseous
Gasify
Gaudy
Gauze
Gayety
Gayly

Gaze *G.* *Grandeur*

Gaze
Generalize
Generator
Genius (genii)
Genius (geniuses)
Gentility
Gesture
Ghastliness
Gibber
Giddiness
Gilder
Girder
Gist
Gladiator
Glair (of egg)
Glare (light)
Glaze
Glazier
Gleam
Glean
Gleaner
Glisten
Glorious
Glossary
Glover
Glue
Gluey
Glycerine
Gnarled
Gnash
Gnat
Gnaw
Goad
Gobbler
Gorgeous
Gormandize
Gourmand
Governable
Governor
Grammar
Grammatical
Granary
Granddaughter
Grandeur

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Habitable *H.* *Heed*

Habitable
Hackneyed
Haggard
Haggler
Hail (noun)
Hairbreadth
Hale (adjective)
Halleluiah
Hammock
Handful
Handily
Handiwork
Haphazard
Happily
Harass
Hardihood
Harebrained
Harmonize
Hasten
Hastily
Hatch
Hatter
Haughtiness
Haul
Haunt
Havoc
Hawk
Hazard
Haze
Haziness
Headiness
Heal (verb)
Health
Healthily
Hearer
Hearse
Heartily
Heat
Heathen
Heave
Heavily
Hector
Hedge
Heed

Heifer	*H.*	*Hosier*
Heifer		Ho (interjection)
Height		Hoár (gray)
Heinqus		Hoard (store)
Heir		Hoarse
Helper		Hoary (gray)
Hemisphere		Hoe (noun)
Hemorrhage		Hogshead
Herb		Holder
Herbage		Holiday
Herd		Homage
Heritable		Homeward
Hesitancy		Honey
Hew (cut)		Honeyed
Hewer		Honorable
Heyday		Hopper
Hiccough		Horde (tribe)
Hickory		Horizon
Higgler		Horrible
Hilarity		Horrid
Hindrance		Horror
Hinge		Hose (hose)
Hitch		Hosier

Hospitable *H.* *Hysterics*

Hospitable
Hostage
Hostility
Hue (color)
Hugely
Humanely
Humanity
Humanize
Humor
Hunter
Hurly-burly
Hurricane
Huskiness
Huzza

Hyacinth
Hydrant
Hydrophobia
Hyena
Hygiene
Hymen
Hymeneal
Hymn
Hyperbole
Hyphen
Hypocrisy
Hypothesis
Hysterics

Ice *I.* *Illicit*

Ice
Icicle
Iciness
Idle
Idler

Idol (image)
Idolatry
Idyl (poem)
Ignorant
Illicit

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Impossible *I. Incomprehensible*

Impossible
Impostor
Impotent
Impracticable
Impregnable
Impressible
Improbable
Improvable
Improvement
Improvident
Improvise
Impugn
Imputable
Inability
Inaccessible
Inaccurate
Inadequacy
Inadmissible
Inadvertence
Inalienable
Inapplicable
Inappreciable

Inaudible
Inaugural
Incalculable
Incandescent
Incapable
Incapacity
Incendiary
Incense
Incident
Incipient
Incisor
Inclinable
Incline
Inclose
Inclosure
Incoherence
Incombustible
Incommunicable
Incomparable
Incompatible
Incompetent
Incomprehensible

Incompressible *I.* *Indorse*

Incompressible
Inconceivable
Inconsiderable
Inconsistent
Inconsolable
Inconstancy
Incontestable
Incontinent
Incontrovertible
Inconvenient
Inconvertible
Incorrect
Incorrigible
Incorruptible
Incredible
Inculpable
Incumbent
Incurable
Indecent
Indecipherable
Indeclinable
Indefatigable
Indefensible
Indefinable
Indelible
Independence
Indescribable
Indestructible
Index (indexes)
Indicator
Indictable
Indictment
Indigent
Indignant
Indispensable
Indisputable
Indissoluble
Indistinguishable
Individual
Individualize
Indivisible
Indomitable
Indorse

Indorser *I.* *Innocence*

Indorser
Indubitable
Inducement
Indulgence
Ineffable
Ineffaceable
Ineligible
Inequitable
Inertia
Inestimable
Inevitable
Inexcusable
Inexhaustible
Inexorable
Inexpedient
Inexplicable
Inextinguishable
Inextricable
Infallible
Infelicity
Inferable
Inference

Infinite
Infirmary
Infirmity
Inflammable
Inflexible
Informant
Informer
Infringement
Infuse
Infusible
Ingredient
Inhabitable
Inhabitant
Inherent
Inheritable
Inheritance
Inheritor
Inhospitable
Inimitable
Inn (tavern)
Innate
Innocence

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Intercessor *I.* *Irrelevant*

Intercessor
Interchangeable
Interdict
Interleave
Interminable
Intermittent
Interpolator
Interpretable
Interpreter
Interrogator
Interrupt
Interview
Interweave
Intimacy
Intolerable
Intolerant
Intractable
Intransitive
Intrench
Intricacy
Intuitive
Invader
Invaluable
Invariable
Inveigh
Inveigle
Inventor
Investigator
Invincible
Inviolable
Invisible
Involuntary
Invulnerable
Inwardly
Irascible
Iridescence
Irradiate
Irreclaimable
Irreconcilable
Irrecoverable
Irredeemable
Irreducible
Irrefutable
Irrelevant

Irremediable I. *Itinerant*

Irremediable
Irrepealable
Irrepressible
Irreproachable
Irresistible
Irresponsible
Irretrievable
Irreverent
Irreversible
Irrevocable
Irritable
Irritant
Itinerant

Jabberer J. *Juvenescent*

Jabberer
Jackal
Jail
Jam (conserve)
Jamb (of a door)
Janitor
Jaundice
Jeer
Jeopard
Jeweler
Jewelry
Jewsharp
Joiner
Joist
Journalize
Journey
Joust
Jubilant
Judaize
Judgment
Juggler
Juror
Jury
Justifiable
Juvenescent

Kale *K.* *Knurly*

Kale
Kaleidoscope
Kangaroo
Kedge
Keelhaul
Keeper
Kernel (of a nut)
Key
Kidnaper
Kidney
Kiln
Kitchen
Knack
Knapsack
Knave
Knead (mix)
Knee
Kneel
Knell
Knickknack
Knife
Knight
Knit
Knob
Knock
Knocker
Knoll
Knot
Knout
Knowable
Knowledge
Knuckle
Knurly

Labor *L.* *Lacerate*

Labor
Laborer
Labyrinth
Lacerate

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Legacy *L.* *Loathe*

Legacy
Legalize
Legator
Legible
Legislator
Leisure
Length
Leniency
Leopard
Leper
Lessee
Lessor
Lethargy
Leveler
Leviable
Lewd
Liable
Liar
Libeler
License
Licentious
Lichen
Lief
Lieu
Light
Lighter
Likelihood
Limb
Limitable
Lingual
Link
Liquefiable
Liquid
Liquor
Listen
Listener
Literal
Lithographer
Litigant
Liturgy
Load (burden)
Loafer
Loan (lend)
Loathe

Lode *L.* *Lyre*

Lode (metallic)
Lodger
Lodgment
Loftily
Loiterer
Lone (solitary)
Longitude
Loose
Loquacity
Lordliness
Lore
Lose
Loser
Loth
Loud
Lounger
Lousy
Lovable
Loveliness
Lover
Lowliness

Lozenge
Lubricity
Luckily
Lucrative
Ludicrous
Lumbar (adjective)
Lumber (noun)
Lunacy
Lunar
Lunatic
Luncheon
Lunge
Lurch
Luster
Lustily
Luxuriant
Lye
Lymph
Lynx
Lyre

Macadamize *M.* *Mattress*

Maçadamize
Macaroni
Macerate
Machinator
Magistracy
Magnetize
Magnificence
Mailable
Main (chief)
Maintenance
Máize (corn)
Majesty
Major
Male (sex)
Malefactor
Malevolent
Malfeasance
Malign
Malignant
Maligner
Malleable
Mamma
Manageable
Manager
Mane (hair)
Manikin
Manor
Mantel (shelf)
Mantle (cloak)
Manufacturer
Marauder
Mariner
Marketable
Marriageable
Martyr
Marvelous
Mask
Masquerade
Massacre
Match
Material
Materialize
Matrix
Mattress

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Mimicker *M.* *Moral*

Mimicker
Mince
Miner (who mines)
Mineralize
Minnow
Minor (under age)
Minute
Minutiae (plural)
Minx
Miscreant
Misdemeanor
Miserable
Misguidance
Misprision
Missal (mass-book)
Missile (weapon)
Missionary
Mistletoe
Mite (tiny thing)
Mnemonics
Moan
Moat

Mobility
Modeler
Moderator
Modifier
Mohammedan
Moiety
Molar
Mold
Molder
Mollifiable
Molt
Momentary
Monetary
Moneyed
Moneyless
Monitor
Monkey
Monopolize
Monosyllable
Monstrosity
Moodiness
Moral

Moralize *M.* *Myth*

Moralize
Morsel
Mortal
Mortar
Mortgage
Mosquito
Mossiness
Motor
Mountain
Mourner
Mouser
Movable
Mover
Mower
Mucilage
Muddiness
Muffler
Mulatto (Mulattoes)
Multipliable
Multiplicity
Multiplier
Munificence
Murderer
Murmur
Muscle
Muscular
Mustache
Mustiness
Mutable
Myriad
Mysterious
Mystic
Myth

Nacre *N.* *Namesake*

Nacre
Nadir
Nag
Naiad
Nail
Namesake

Narrate *N.* *Niter*

Narrate
Narrator
Nascent
Nastiness
Natal
Nationalize
Naturalize
Naught
Naughtiness
Nausea
Navigable
Navigator
Nay (no)
Near
Neat
Nebula (Nebulae)
Necessarily
Necessity
Nectar
Need (want)
Needle
Negligence
Negotiable
Negotiator
Negro (negroes)
Neigh (whinny)
Neighbor
Nephew
Nestle
Nettle
Neuralgia
Neuter
Neutral
Neutralize
Nibbler
Nicety
Niche
Nick
Niece
Nigh
Night
Nimble
Nipple
Niter

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Obese *O.* *Opposer*

Obese
Obesity
Objectionable
Objector
Obligation
Oblique
Obliquity
Obscene
Obscenity
Obscure
Obscurity
Obsequies
Observable
Observant
Observer
Obtainable
Occasion
Occult
Occupant
Occur
Occurrence
Ocher
Oddity
Odor
Offender
Offense
Often
Ogre
Olive
Omelet
Omen
Ominous
Omit
Omnipotent
Omniscient
Onerous
Onslaught
Onward
Ooze
Opaque
Operator
Opponent
Opportunity
Opposer

Words Commonly Misspelled

Oppress *O.* *Oyster*

Oppress
Oppressor
Optimist
Opulence
Orator
Ordeal
Orderliness
Ordinance
Ordinary
Ordnance
Ore (metal)
Organize
Orgy
Orifice
Origin
Originator
Ornamental
Orphan
Oscillate
Ostensible

Ostracize
Ought
Ounce
Oust
Outrage
Outrageous
Outward
Oven
Overrate
Overreach
Overrule
Overrun
Owe
Owing
Owner
Oxidize
Oxygen
Oxygenize
Oyster

Pacific	*P.*	*Partisan*
Pacific		Parallel
Pacificator		Paralysis
Package		Paralyze
Pact		Paramour
Paean		Paraphrase
Pageant		Parasite
Pail (vessel)		Parcel
Pain (suffering)		Pardonable
Painter		Pare (cut)
Pair (couple)		Parental
Palatable		Parishioner
Palate		Parlance
Pale (white)		Parliament
Palm		Parlor
Palpable		Parole
Panacea		Parquet
Pane (glass)		Partaker
Panther		Partible
Parable		Participator
Parachute		Particular
Paradise		Particularize
Paragon		Partisan

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Penalty *P.* *Phantasm*

Penalty
Penance
Pendant (noun)
Pendent (adjective).
Penetrable
Penitent
Pennant
Pensioner
Penury
People
Per (preposition)
Perambulator
Perceive
Perceptible
Perennial
Perfecter
Perfectible
Perfidious
Perforator
Performance
Performer
Perishable
Perjurer
Permanence
Permeable
Permissible
Perpetrate
Perpetrator
Persecute
Persecutor
Persistence
Personable
Persuadable
Persuasible
Pertain
Pertinent
Perturbation
Pestilence
Pestle
Petitioner
Petulance
Pew
Pewter
Phantasm

Phantom	*P.*	*Placid*
Phantom		Pier (noun)
Phase		Pierce
Phenomenon (phe-		Pigeon
nomena)		Pilferer
Philanthropist		Pillager
Philosopher		Pillar
Philter		Pincers
Phlegm		Pinion
Phonetic		Pinnacle
Phosphorus		Piquant
Photograph		Pique
Phrase		Piracy
Phrenologist		Pistol
Phthisis		Pitch
Physic		Pitcher
Physical		Piteous
Physician		Pithily
Physiognomist		Pittance
Physiology		Pity
Pianist		Pivot
Pickax		Placable
Piece (part)		Placid

Placidity *P.* *Poignancy*

Placidity
Plagiarize
Plague
Plaid
Plain (flat)
Plaintiff
Plane (level)
Planet
Planetary
Planter
Plaster
Plasterer
Plasticity
Platitude
Plaudit
Plausible
Player
Playfulness
Plead
Pleader
Pleasant
Please
Pleasurable
Plebeian
Pledge
Pleurisy
Pliable
Pliant
Plight
Plodder
Plotter
Plough
Ploughable
Plougher
Plumb
Plumber
Plunderer
Plunge
Plural
Pneumatic
Pneumonia
Poach
Poacher
Poignancy

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Pout *P.* *Prescience*

Pout
Practicable
Practise
Praise
Prattler
Pray (ask)
Prayer
Preacher
Precarious
Precaution
Precede
Precedence
Precedent
Preceptor
Precipice
Precipitant
Precipitous
Precisian
Precocity
Precursor
Predecessor
Predicable
Predicament
Predicate
Predominant
Pre-eminent
Preface
Prefer
Preferable
Preference
Pregnant
Prejudice
Prelate
Prelude
Premature
Premeditate
Premier
Preparation
Preponderance
Prepossess
Prerequisite
Prerogative
Presage
Prescience

Words Commonly Misspelled

Presence	*P.*	*Pronunciation*
Presence		Probity
Present		Proceed
Preservable		Process
Preserver		Procrastinator
Presuppose		Proctor
Pretender		Procurable
Pretense		Producer
Pretty		Professor
Prevalence		Proficiency
Prevaricator		Profitable
Prey (booty)		Profligacy
Priest		Progenitor
Primer		Program
Primeval		Progress
Primitive		Projectile
Principality		Projector
Prior		Prologue
Prisoner		Promiser
Privacy		Promoter
Privilege		Promulgator
Probable		Pronóunceable
Probationer		Pronunciation

Propagator *P.* *Punster*

Propagator
Propél
Propeller
Propensity
Prophecy (noun)
Prophesy (verb)
Propitiator
Proportionable
Proposal
Proprietor
Propriety
Prosecute
Prosecutor
Proselyte
Prosperity
Prosy
Protector
Protestant
Protuberance
Proud
Provable
Provender

Providence
Provider
Prow
Prowler
Prudence
Prurience
Psalm
Pshaw
Psychology
Pudding
Puerility
Puissance
Pulmonary
Pulverable
Pulverize
Pumice
Pumpkin
Punctilious
Pungency
Punishable
Punisher
Punster

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Qualifier *Q.* *Quotable*

Qualifier
Quality
Qualm
Quandary
Quantity
Quarantine
Quarter
Quarto (quartos)
Quash
Quaver
Quenchable
Querulous
Query
Questionable
Questioner
Quibbler
Quiescence
Quince
Quinine
Quinsy
Quintessence
Quintet
Quire (24 sheets)
Quittance
Quiz
Quizzical
Quoit
Quotable

Rabid *R.* *Raid*

Rabid
Raccoon
Racer
Racy
Radiant
Radiator
Radical
Radish
Rafter
Raid

Words Commonly Misspelled

Rail
Raillery
Rain (drops)
Raise (lift)
Raisin
Rake
Rambler
Ramify
Rammer
Rampant
Rancor
Ranter
Rapacity
Rapid
Rapper
Rarity
Rascal
Rascality
Raspberry
Ratable
Ratchet
Ratify

Ratio
Rattan
Ravage
Ravager
Ravel
Raven
Ravisher
Raw
Raze (demolish)
Razor
Reach
Reactionary
Readable
Reader
Realize
Reap
Reaper
Reappearance
Rear
Reasonable
Reasoner
Reassurance

Rebel *R.* *Reek*

Rebel
Recede
Receipt
Receivable
Receiver
Recent
Receptacle
Receptible
Recipe
Recipient
Reciprocity
Recision
Recital
Reckon
Reckoner
Reclaimable
Reclaimant
Recognizable
Recognizance
Recognize
Recollect
Recommence
Recommit
Recompense
Reconcilable
Reconnoiter
Recorder
Recoverable
Recreant
Recruit
Rectifier
Rector
Recumbent
Recur
Recurrent
Recusant
Redeemable
Redeemer
Redolent
Redoubtable
Reducible
Redundancy
Reek

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Repealable *R.* *Resultant*

Repealable
Repeater
Repel
Repellent
Repentance
Repertory
Reporter
Reprehensible
Representative
Reprieve
Reprimand
Reprisal
Reproachable
Reproduce
Reprovable
Reprover
Repudiator
Repugnant
Reputable
Requirable
Requisite
Rescue

Resemble
Reservoir
Residence
Residuary
Resign
Resilience
Resin
Resistance
Resistible
Resolvent
Resonance
Respectable
Respirable
Respirator
Resplendent
Respondent
Responsible
Restaurant
Restorative
Restorer
Restraint
Resultant

Resume *R.* *Riddance*

Resume
Resuscitate
Retail
Retailer
Retain
Retainer
Retaliate
Retina
Retinue
Retreat
Retrievable
Retrocede
Returnable
Reveal
Revealer
Revel
Reveler
Revenge
Revenue
Reverberant
Revere
Reverend
Revery
Reversal
Reversible
Review
Reviewer
Revile
Reviler
Revise
Reviser
Revival
Revocable
Revolver
Rhapsody
Rhetoric
Rheumatic
Rhubarb
Rhyme
Rhymer
Ribald
Ribbon
Rickety
Riddance

Rider *R.* *Rove*

Rider
Ridge
Ridicule
Riffraff
Right (correct)
Rigid
Rigmarole
Rigor
Rinse
Rioter
Rise
Risibility
Rite (usage)
Rival
River
Rivet
Roach
Roam
Roamer
Roar
Roast
Robbery

Rodent
Rogue
Roil
Rôle (part)
Roll (turn)
Roller
Romance
Rosin
Rosiness
Rotary
Roué
Rouge
Rough (harsh)
Roulette
Round
Roundabout
Roundelay
Rouse
Rout (defeat)
Route (way)
Routine
Rove

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Salutary *S.* *Scavenger*

Salutary
Salvage
Salve
Salver
Sanatorium
Sanctifier
Sandal
Sang-froid
Sanguinary
Sanguine
Sanitary
Sanity
Sapient
Sapphire
Sardine
Sarsaparilla
Sassafras
Satan
Satchel
Satellite
Satiety
Satire
Satirize
Satisfier
Saturable
Saturnine
Satyr
Sauce
Saucer
Sauerkraut
Saunter
Saunterer
Sausage
Savable
Savage
Savant
Saver
Savior
Saviour (Christ)
Savor
Scandal
Scandalize
Scarce
Scavenger

Scenery	*S.*	*Secrete*
Scenery		Scowl
Scent		Scrawl
Scepter		Scream
Schedule		Screech
Scheme		Screed
Schemer		Screen
Scholar		Screw
School		Scrutinize
Schooner		Scud
Sciatic		Scull (row)
Science		Sculler
Scintillant		Sculptor
Scissors		Scurrility
Scorch		Sea (ocean)
Scorner		Seaward
Scotch		Secede
Scoundrel		Seceder
Scour		Second
Scourge		Secondarily
Scourger		Secrecy
Scout		Secretary
Scow		Secrete

Sector *S.* *Severance*

Sector
Securable
Securely
Sedative
Sedentary
Seduce
Seducer
Seeker
Seizable
Seize
Seizure
Seller
Semblance
Seminary
Senator
Senile
Sensible
Sensitive
Sensory
Sentence
Sentient
Separable
Separate
Separator
Sepulcher
Sequester
Sequestrator
Seraph
Serenade
Serenity
Sergeant
Serial
Series
Serious
Sermonize
Servant
Service
Serviceable
Servitor
Session (sitting)
Settee
Settler
Several
Severance

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Signalize *S.* *Sleazy*

Signalize
Signer
Significance
Silence
Silhouette
Silkiness
Silliness
Similar
Similitude
Simplicity
Simulate
Simultaneous
Sincerity
Sinewy
Singe
Singer
Singular
Sinister
Sinner
Siphon
Siren
Sirup

Sizable
Size
Skein
Skeleton
Skeptic
Sketch
Skewer
Skim
Skimmer
Skip
Skipper
Skulker
Skull (head)
Slam
Slanderer
Slat
Slater
Slaughterer
Slaver
Slay (kill)
Slayer
Sleazy

Words Commonly Misspelled

Sled	*S.*	*Sneerer*
Sled		Sluice
Sledge		Slur
Sleeper		Slut
Sleigh (vehicle)		Sluttish
Sleight (trick)		Shyly
Slew		Smear
Slice		Smelter
Slight (neglect)		Smirk
Slip		Smoker
Slip-knot		Smolder
Slipper		Smut
Slit		Smutch
Sliver		Smutty
Slop		Snag
Sloppy		Snail
Slouch		Snap
Slough		Snappish
Sloven		Snarler
Slovenliness		Snatch
Slow		Sneak
Slug		Sneer
Sluggard		Sneerer

Sneeze S. *Sorcerer*

Sneeze
Snip
Snivel
Snob
Snobbish
Snooze
Snug
Soak
Soap
Soar (fly)
Sob
Sober
Sobriety
Sobriquet
Sociable
Social
Society
Sock
Sod
Sojourn
Sojourner
Solace
Solar
Solder
Soldier
Sole (single)
Solecism
Solemn
Solemnity
Solemnize
Solicit
Solicitor
Soliloquize
Solitaire
Solitary
Solvable
Solvency
Somber
Somnolent
Soot
Soothe
Soothsayer
Sop
Sorcerer

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Spit *S.* *Starer*

Spit
Splendid
Splendor
Splice
Split
Spoiler
Sponge
Sponger
Spoonful
Spot
Spotted
Spouse
Spout
Sprawl
Spread
Sprig
Sprightliness
Sprout
Spruce
Spur
Spurn
Spurt
Squalid
Squalor
Squaw
Squeak
Squeal
Squeamish
Squeeze
Squib
Squirm
Squirt
Stag
Stage
Stagger
Stagnant
Staid
Stain
Stair (step)
Stake (stick)
Star
Starch
Stare (look)
Starer

Starry *S.* *Strait-laced*

Starry
Stationary (fixed)
Stationer
Stationery (paper)
Statuary
Steak (meat)
Steal
Stealth
Steam
Steamer
Stellar
Stem
Stencil
Step (pace)
Steppe (plain)
Stevedore
Stew
Steward
Stickler
Stigmatize
Stile (steps)
Stiletto
Stimulator
Stingily
Stingy
Stipulator
Stirrup
Stitch
Stolid
Stomach
Stop
Stoppage
Stopper
Stoup
Stout
Stow
Straight (direct)
Straighten
Strain
Strainer
Strait (narrow)
Straiten
Strait-jacket
Strait-laced

Stranger *S.* *Succor*

Stranger
Strap
Strapping
Strategy
Streak
Stream
Streamer
Strength
Stretch
Stretcher
Strew
Stroll
Strop
Strut
Strychnin
Stub
Stud
Studied
Stun
Stupor
Sturdily
Sturdy

Stutterer
Stygian
Style (manner)
Suasion
Suavity
Subpena
Subscriber
Subsequent
Subservient
Subsidence
Subsidize
Subsistence
Substance
Subterranean
Subtile (fine)
Subtle (sly)
Suburban
Succeed
Success
Successive
Successor
Succor

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Surge *S.* *Symmetry*

Surge
Surliness
Surly
Surmountable
Surpassable
Surplus
Surprise
Survey
Surveyor
Survivor
Susceptible
Suspender
Sustainable
Sustainer
Sustenance
Swag
Swaggerer
Swain
Swan
Swap
Swarthy
Swear
Swearer
Sweat
Sweatiness
Sweaty
Swerve
Swig
Swim
Swimmer
Swindler
Swinger
Switch
Swivel
Sword
Sybarite
Sycamore
Sycophant
Syllable
Syllogism
Sylph
Sylvan
Symbolize
Symmetry

Sympathize S. *Systematize*

Sympathize
Sympathizer
Symphony
Symptom
Synod
Synonym
Synonymous

Syntax
Synthesis
Syphilis
Syriac
Syringe
System
Systematize

Tab T. *Tar*

Tab
Tabernacle
Tableau (tableaux)
Tablet
Tacit
Taciturn
Tail (appendage)
Tailor
Taint
Talc
Tale (story)
Talent

Talisman
Talker
Talon
Tambourine
Tangible
Tankard
Tannin
Tantalize
Tantamount
Tap
Tapestry
Tar

Tardiness *T.* *Tepid*

Tardiness
Tardy
Tare (weed)
Tariff
Tarpaulin
Tastily
Tattoo
Taunt
Taut
Tautology
Tavern
Tawdriness
Tawdry
Tawny
Taxable
Tea
Teach
Teachable
Team
Tear (drop)
Tear (rend)
Tease
Teaser
Teat
Tedious
Tedium
Teem
Teller
Temerity
Temperament
Temperance
Temporize
Temporizer
Tempter
Tenable
Tenacity
Tenancy
Tenement
Tenet
Tenor
Tentacle
Tentative
Tenuity
Tepid

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Tine *T.* *Traceable*

Tine
Tinge
Tinker
Tiny
Tip
Tire
Tissue
Tithe
Titillation
Titular
Titulary
To (preposition)
Toad
Toast
Toilet
Tolerable
Tolerance
Tomato (tomatoes)
Ton (weight)
Tongue
Tonnage
Too (also)
Top
Topic
Topsy-turvy
Torch
Tormenter
Torpid
Torpor
Tortoise
Totality
Totally
Touch
Tough
Toupee
Tour
Tourniquet
Tow
Toward
Towel
Tower
Town
Trace
Traceable

Tractable *T.* *Treat*

Tractable
Trader
Traduce
Traducer
Trafficker
Tragedian
Tragedy
Tragic
Trail
Train
Trainable
Traipse
Trait
Traitor
Tramper
Trance
Tranquil
Tranquillity
Transactor
Transcendent
Transcriber
Transferable
Transference
Transferrer
Transfuse
Transgressor
Transient
Transit
Translatable
Translator
Translucent
Transmissible
Transmutable
Transparent
Transportable
Trap
Travail (toil)
Travel (voyage)
Traversable
Treachery
Tread
Treasonable
Treasure
Treat

Treatise *T.* *Tumor*

Treatise
Treaty
Treble
Tremor
Trenchant
Trepan
Trephine
Triable
Trial
Tribulation
Tribune
Tributary
Tribute
Trice
Trickery
Trident
Trier
Trip
Tripping
Triumph
Triumphant
Troche

Trophy
Trot
Trotter
Trouble
Trough
Trounce
Trousers
Trousseau
Trout
Trow
Trowel
Truce
Truculence
True
Truism
Trumpeter
Tryst
Tubercular
Tubular
Tuck
Tug
Tumor

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Underrate *U.* *Upward*

Underrate
Understrapper
Undertaker
Undulate
Unfathomable
Unfavorable
Ungainly
Ungovernable
Unicorn
Uniform
Unimpeachable
Unintelligible
Union
Unique
Unison
Unless
Unnatural
Unnecessarily
Unneighborly
Unnerve
Unnumbered
Unpalatable
Unprofitable
Unquestionable
Unreasonable
Unrivaled
Unsalable
Unsearchable
Unseasonable
Unskilful
Unsociable
Unspeakable
Unstable
Unsuitable
Untamable
Until
Untimely
Untoward
Unutterable
Unwarrantable
Upbraid
Upbraider
Upholder
Upward

Words Commonly Misspelled

Urban U. Uxorious

Urban
Urbane
Urbanity
Urge
Urgency
Urn (vase)
Usage
User
Usher
Usual
Usurer
Usurious
Usurp
Usurper
Utensil
Utilitarian
Utility
Utterable
Utterance
Uxorious

Vacancy V. Validity

Vacancy
Vacant
Vaccinate
Vaccinator
Vaccine
Vacillate
Vacuity
Vacuum
Vagabond
Vagary
Vagrant
Vague
Vain (conceited)
Vale (valley)
Valet
Valiant
Valid
Validity

Valise *V.* *Ventriloquist*

Valise
Valor
Valuable
Value
Valve
Van
Vandal
Vane (weathercock)
Vanity
Vanquishable
Vanquisher
Vantage
Vapid
Vapor
Vaporize
Variable
Variance
Varicose
Variegate
Various
Vary (alter)
Vase
Vassal
Vat
Vault
Vaunt
Veal
Vehemence
Vehicle
Vehicular
Veil (conceal)
Vein (blood-vessel)
Velocity
Venal
Vender
Vendible
Vendor (in law)
Venerable
Venerator
Venial
Venom
Ventilate
Ventilator
Ventriloquist

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Vigilant *V.* *Vogue*

Vigilant
Vignette
Vigor
Vilifier
Villager
Villain
Villainous
Villainy
Vincible
Vindicator
Vinegar
Vineyard
Violable
Violator
Violence
Virago (viragoes)
Virgin
Virginity
Virile
Virility
Virtue
Virulence
Visage
Viscera
Viscid
Viscount
Viscous
Vise (tool)
Visible
Visionary
Visitable
Visitant
Visitor
Visor
Visual
Vitality
Vitiate
Vivacity
Vivid
Vixen
Vocable
Vocabulary
Vocalize
Vogue

Voice *V.* *Vulnerable*

Voice
Void
Voidable
Voidance
Volatile
Volatility
Volatilize
Volubility
Voluble
Volume
Voluntary
Voluptuary
Vomit
Votary
Vote
Voter
Vouch
Voucher
Vow
Vowel
Voyage
Voyager
Vulcanize
Vulgar
Vulgarity
Vulnerable

Wad *W.* *Waive*

Wad
Wadding
Wag
Wager
Wagon
Wagoner
Waist (middle)
Wait
Waiter
Waive (relinquish)

Wale *W.* *Wednesday*

Wale
Walker
Wan
Wanderer
Wane
Wanness
Wares
Warily
Warrant
Warrantable
Warrior
Wary
Washer
Wassail
Waste (loss)
Watch
Watcher
Water
Watery
Wave (billow)
Waver
Way (road)
Wayfarer
Waylay
Weal
Wealth
Wealthily
Weapon
Wear
Weariness
Weary
Weasand
Weasel
Weather
Weave
Weaver
Weazen
Web
Webbing
Wed
Wedding
Wedge
Wedlock
Wednesday

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Wiry *W.* *Wreath*

Wiry
Wiseacre
Wit
Witch
Witchery
Withe
Wittily
Witty
Wive
Wizard
Wizen
Woe
Woful
Woman
Women
Wont (accustomed)
Won't (will not)
Woo
Wooer
Woolen
Woolliness
Woolly
Word
Wordiness
Wordy
Worker
World
Worldliness
Worldly
Worm
Worse
Worshiper
Worst
Worsted
Worth
Worthily
Worthy
Wot
Wrangler
Wrap
Wrapper
Wrath
Wreak
Wreath

Wreathe *W.* *Wryness*

Wreathe
Wreck (damage)
Wrecker
Wren
Wrench
Wrest
Wrestler
Wretch
Wriggle
Wriggler
Wring
Wringer
Wrinkle
Wrist
Writ
Write
Writer
Writhe
Writing
Wrong
Wrought
Wrung
Wry
Wryness

Yacht *Y.* *Yolk*

Yacht
Yankee
Yap
Yawl
Yawn
Yea
Year
Yearn
Yeast
Yeoman
Yew (tree)
Yield
Yoke (bind)
Yolk (of egg)

You *Y.* *Yule*

You (pronoun)
Young
Youth
Yule

Zeal *Z.* *Zouave*

Zeal
Zealot
Zenith
Zephyr
Zero (zeros)
Zinc
Zodiac
Zone
Zoölogy
Zouave

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