

# ENGLISH • SPELLING • SOCIETY

## Personal View

23

The self-expression medium  
for Society members

The views expressed here are the  
author's and are not necessarily  
shared by the Society, or a majority of  
its members.

### The Author

Stephen Linstead spent most of his working life as a civil servant in the British Department of Trade & Industry. He has degrees in modern history from Oxford University and in political science from Carleton University, Ottawa. He has studied several European languages. In his retirement, he lives in Solihull, West Midlands, and now has the opportunity to devote more time to his long standing interests in public law and linguistics. His concern for the reform of English spelling is long-standing.

### The English Spelling Society

The object of the Society is to raise awareness of the problems caused by the irregularity of English spelling; and to promote remedies to improve literacy, including spelling reform.

## TRADITIONAL SPELLING REVISED

*by Stephen Linstead*

Traditional Spelling Revised (TSR) is a minimal respell approach to the reform of Traditional English Spelling (TS), **based essentially on making English spelling observe its own rules.** Its core principles are:

- One sound can be represented by more than one letter or letter combination, BUT
- One letter or letter combination must normally only represent one sound – where that principle is not followed, there must be strict rules indicating which sound is indicated in any particular situation.
- If a rule in TS is reasonably dependable, it is normally carried over into TSR.
- Where a pattern cannot be brought within an existing dependable rule, it is normally respelled.
- A few words are retained with their irregular TS spelling.

See also Regspel (PV15), which is a more radical scheme from the same author.

### Contents

- A. Preface – Why TSR?
- B. Answers to Specific Questions
- C. Graphemes and Phonemes
  - 1. Vowel Sounds
  - 2. Consonant sounds
- D. TSR's Rules
  - 1. The Magic E & Doubling Rules
  - 2. The letters S and Z
  - 3. Some Other Usually Dependable Rules from TS
- E. When TSR changes the spelling of TS – A Summary.
- F. Words Retained Unchanged from Traditional Spelling.
- Appendix 1 – Standard Texts.
- Appendix 2 – ESS Phoneme Word List.
- Appendix 3 – Sub Groups of Graphemes representing English vowel sounds.

## **A. Preface – Why TSR?**

Traditional Spelling Revised (TSR) is a minimal respell approach to the reform of Traditional English Spelling (TS), **based essentially on making English spelling observe its own rules.** Its core principles are:

- Redundant letters are deleted.
- One sound can be represented by more than one letter or letter combination, BUT
- One letter or letter combination must normally only represent one sound – where that principle is not followed, there must be strict rules indicating which sound is indicated in any particular situation.
- If a spelling rule in TS is reasonably dependable, it is normally carried over into TSR.
- Where a word does not conform to a dependable rule, it is normally respelled.
- A few sign words with irregular spellings are retained.

The result is a system that it is not as phonemic as Spanish or Italian but offers one-way phonemicity on the lines of German or French. Based on the words in the Standard Texts (Appendix 1) it respells approximately 18% of TS spellings.

## **B. Answers to Specific Questions**

**1. Is this a new original idea or is it adapted from one developed by the writer or someone else?**

Essentially, it has been developed by the author independently.

**2. Is it an initial scheme for learning literacy, as a step to TS, or is it for permanent adult use?**

It is intended to replace TS entirely and is for permanent adult use.

**3. Are there any supplementary rules? If so, please detail.**

As well as allocating specific graphemes to phonemes, TSR has various supplementary spelling rules based on those of TS; these are set out at paragraph D below.

**4. Does your system cater for schwa and stress?**

The system caters for schwa in its various forms. Stressed syllables are not indicated, but this issue is left open for discussion.

**5. If this is a phonemic system, which accent of English is it based on? Would you cater for other accents of English? How?**

The author has generally used Longman's<sup>1</sup> as the basis for the pronunciation followed – this shows Received Pronunciation (RP) and General American (GenAm) pronunciations, where different. The author believes that it should be possible for a single orthography to cater for most regional pronunciations of spoken English, and TSR seeks to do so wherever possible. But provision is made for different spellings in a very few cases where RP diverges markedly from GenAm.

**6. Is the scheme based on an assumed knowledge of English / TS or is it independent, that is could people who had learned the spelling rules pronounce a text correctly even though they had no knowledge of English?**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (editor J C Wells, © Longman Group 2000). Where a pronunciation not listed by Longman's is used, this is noted in the text.

TSR does not presume prior knowledge of English or of TS. Non-English speakers could pronounce a TSR text reasonably well, although it would take them longer to learn to transform speech into writing.

**7. How does the running text in the scheme compare in length with TS?**

TSR requires roughly the same number of characters as TS. Regularising the doubling rule increases the number, but the removal of surplus letters usually cancels this out.

**8. Would you suggest that all publications be produced in your system? What are your suggestions for dealing with material previously published?**

TSR is just one contribution to various efforts to develop a simpler and more phonemic English spelling system, one that can be accepted by those familiar with TS and learnt easily by all.

**9. Do you envisage your system and TS co-existing until agreement is reached on dropping TS (as with conversion to metric measures?)**

TSR and TS would co-exist side by side for a transitional period.

**10. Do you regard homophones as a problem and does your system indicate them in any way?**

The author does not regard homophones as a serious problem, essentially because they are no obstacle to oral communication. However, in the interests of TS adepts, TSR allows heterographic homophones to be retained where the spellings are consistent with its rules. It is also permissible (but not obligatory) to indicate a deleted redundant letter by means of an apostrophe, where this may help to distinguish meaning.

**11. Could your system be used easily on most computers and word processors?**

Yes, undoubtedly.

**12. Is the system used in everyday life by yourself or anyone else?**

At present it is used only by the author and some friends, but he has put it on the file section of Saundspel and SSS for peer review.

## C. Graphemes and Phonemes

### 1. Vowel Sounds

Possible representations in TSR of the relevant sound are shown under in the first column, more common forms first – rarer ones marked with asterisk (and listed in Appendix 3 as sub-groups). New TSR graphemes, not found in TS are in italics. Where two SAMPA signs occur, the first represents RP and the second GenAm.

Sampa <sup>2</sup> sign	Permissible TSR Graphemes for this sound
{	pat, bath (GenAm)
e	pet
ɪ	pit
q or a:	pot
v	pun, brother
eɪ	maid, may, made, vein, weigh, danger*, paste*
i:	feed, scene
i:@ or i <sup>@r</sup>	neer
aɪ	lie, side, my, mild*, mind*, sign*, sigh*
@u or ou	load, lode, foe, go, old*, folk*, post*
ju:	few, futile, refute, feudal, usual, Tuesday
a: <sup>f</sup>	far (but tarry)
a:	<i>faather</i> , bath (RP), half*, palm*
3: or 3 <sup>f</sup>	herd, fir, fur (but slurry)
o: <sup>f</sup>	ford, (but sorry)
o:	law, autum(n), ought*, walk*, fraught*, all*, already*,
e@ or e <sup>f</sup>	bare, lair
au	loud, sow
oɪ	coil, boy
u:	food
u	<i>stuud</i> ( <i>stood</i> ), should*
i	kindly
@	(schwa) campus (plus many unstressed vowels)

<sup>2</sup> SAMPA uses conventional characters to represent English words in the phonetic alphabet.

## 2. Consonant sounds

Sampa sign	Permissible TSR Graphemes for this sound
b	bat
k	cat, kitten, chemistry
tS	choke, kitchen
d	dog
f	fog, pheasant
g	gold, guild
h	hat
dZ	jam, gin
l	lemon
m	man
n	nuts
N	ring
p	pat
kw	queen
r	ran
s	slam, city, scene, psycho, mass
S	shed, chef,
t	tin
T	thing <sup>3</sup>
D	this <sup>3</sup>
v	van
w	wand
ks, gz	execute, exactly
j	yak
z	zebra, has, easy,
Z	lesion, pleasure, usual

### D. TSR's Rules (based on TS)

#### 1. The Magic E & Doubling Rules

##### Main Principles

- A vowel, followed by a consonant and **e**, is lengthened: can / cane, pan / pane.
- In words of more than one syllable, stressed vowels are lengthened if followed by a consonant and another vowel: pony, fading, tiny.
- Doubled consonants shorten vowels that would otherwise be lengthened under the preceding rule: hammer, tanner, slimming.

##### Subsidiary Rules connected with Magic E and Doubling

(a) Some combinations of consonants act like a single consonant for the purposes of signifying a magic e: eg **qu** (sequin), **gu** (vague), and (where the syllable is stressed) any single consonant followed by **-le** (able, bible, rifle, idle)

(b) Certain suffixes lengthen the preceding vowel, eg (do)sage, (do)tage, (na)tion, (o)cean, (egre)gious, (Gre)cian, (gra)cious. But a preceding **i** is NOT normally lengthened by such suffixes, eg (rendi)tion, (deli)cious, (presti)gious, (musi)cian.

<sup>3</sup> See D. TSR's Rules.

(c) The letter **x** does not lengthen the preceding stressed vowel (eg execute).

(d) The letter **u** generally obeys the Magic E rule but additionally:

- (i) it is almost invariably long (i.e. representing /ju:/) at the beginning of a word (unite): exceptions: words beginning in **un** with a negative meaning (uninspiring) or in **up** (upend), or when preceding two consonants (ugly);
- (ii) it is usually long when stressed and preceding another vowel which is the last syllable, (eg fuel, dual);
- (iii) it is usually long when unstressed following a vowel and consonant(s) (unusual, annual).

(e) the letter combinations **er**, **ir** and **ur** (have the usual effect of added e etc):

#### Single syllable words

- (i) **ar** – a final e usually turns the sound from **ar** (as in bar) to that in bare, stare, care etc.;
- (ii) **er** obeys the Magic E rule, eg mere, here;
- (iii) **ir** obeys the Magic E rule eg dire, ire, mire, tire;
- (iv) **or** – an added e does not generally affect the or sound: pore, snore; TSR usually drops the e as redundant (eg snor);
- (v) **ur** – obeys the Magic E rule: cure, endure, lure etc.

#### Double & Multi-Syllable words – syllable stressed

- (vi) **ar** – the syllable usually keeps its sound as in (i), (caring, staring etc). TSR inserts an e when there might be confusion as to pronunciation between two similar words (eg stareing (looking at) and staring (featuring in));
- (vii) **er** – the syllable keeps the sound in (ii) (serious);
- (viii) **ir** – the syllable keeps the sound in (iii) (firing, wiry);
- (ix) **or** – the syllable usually keeps its sound in (iv) (boring);
- (x) **ur** – the syllable usually keeps its sound in (v) (fury, jury).

#### Double & Multi-Syllable Words – syllable unstressed

- (xi) vowels are usually short or form a version of the schwa (eg arachnid, erase, restoration, tamper etc). EXCEPTIONS: direct, irenic, which TSR does not double.

### **2. The letters S and Z (and the sounds /s/ and /z/)**

- (a) The letter **z** on its own can only represent the sound in zebra, zero etc. But in TSR as in TS this sound may also be represented by s at the end of a word, (e.g. his), between two vowels, (e.g. present), or when indicating possession (e.g. Tuesday).
- (b) The letter **s at the beginning of a word** always represents the /s/ sound in “song”. But in TSR as in TS this sound can also be represented by **c** before **e**, **i**, or **y**: cedar, city, cyanide, mace.
- (c) The letter **s** may be doubled in TSR as in TS when its position in the word would otherwise represent /z/ (eg hiss, masses).

### **3. Some Other Usually Dependable Rules from TS and how TSR applies them**

- (a) **-able** at end of words is pronounced /@b@l/; (also -ibl);
- (b) **the sound /k/** is usually represented at the beginning of a word by c (except before e, i and y). Where the sound is followed by these vowels /k/ is usually represented by the letter k as in kitten. The sound /k/ at the end of a word is usually represented

by the letters ck (eg slick) apart from a few exceptions such as romantic, antic and terrific. In the middle of a word, the same rules usually apply (eg cucumber, etc). The suffix –ce is pronounced /s/ (eg nice).

- (c) **ch-** is normally pronounced as in cheese; it can represent the sound in “chemistry” in words of Greek origin and in “chef” in words of French origin;
- (d) **g** represents / g / except where it precedes the letters e, i or y - (gender, gin, gyro). Where g starts the word and precedes e,i, or y, and the vowel sound is short, TS sometimes inserts a gu (guilt). TSR makes this a requirement, respelling where necessary: e.g. quelding, guimlet, anguer, banguer, clanguer.
- (e) **sc** follows the rules for the pronunciation of c (eg scam, scone, scene, science, scythe etc).
- (f) **sch** represents /sk/ and never /S/ (except in words of German origin – e.g. schmaltz<sup>4</sup>);
- (g) **unaccented vowels** (schwa) – In TSR generally the letter(s) are unchanged from TS (eg enter, campus, altar – although in some letter combinations a redundant letter may be omitted (savio(u)r);
- (h) **–tion, –ssion, –cian, –cean** are pronounced / S @n/ (e.g. attention, profession, beautician, ocean);
- (i) **/T/ and /D/** - In TSR, the letters **th** continue to represent both of the distinct graphemes **/D/** and **/T/** (e.g. this and thin). However, **/T/** is the default pronunciation of **th** except for:
  - most words ending in **–ther** (e.g. rather, lather, brother etc);
  - at the end of words where followed by **-e** (e.g. loathe, seethe, bathe etc), and
  - a few common words which must be memorised, eg: the, this, that, these, those, than, then, with, altho(ugh).
- (j) **x** normally represents the sound /ks/. It represents the sound /gz/ when followed by an accented vowel (e.g. exactly).
- (k) **y** can represent the three distinct sounds in yak, why or fairy. The first sound usually is found at the beginning of a word or between two vowels, (yellow, beyond); the second when stressed anywhere else (why, cyanide), and the third at the end of a word when unstressed, including compounds (pretty, mainly). TSR respells words such as dystopia as distopia to avoid confusion as to pronunciation.
- (l) doubling of a consonant at the end of a word is permitted with words ending in f, and l, (stuff, fill), although this does not in any way affect the pronunciation.

## E. When TSR changes the spelling of TS – A Summary

- (a) Omission of redundant letters:

In words such as (w)rong, (k)night, (g)nash, snor(e) etc. But the otherwise redundant e is retained for the past participle in words such as endowed and blurred etc. It is also retained in words such as bathe to help distinguish /D/ from /T/.

- (b) Where the doubling rule is applied incorrectly in TS:

Committee is respelled comittee, accommodate is respelled acommodate etc.

(c) Apart from when rendered by magic e (scene), the sound /i:/ is always represented by the combination ee. This is because TS allows several different graphemes to represent this sound, some of which are highly ambiguous: simplification is needed, (beleev, receev, weev etc).

(d) Where a letter combination in TS can represent more than one sound and no satisfactory rule can be devised to distinguish such uses based on position in the word etc.

---

<sup>4</sup> GenAm pronunciation is presumed for words such as schism, schedule.

This rule applies in particular to the combinations oo, ou, ow, ei and ie, thus: oo may only represent the sound in “food”. Words such as wood are respelled wuud (new digraph). **Ou** is only allowed to represent the sound in loud, found, mound, etc, (apart from could, should and would, which are a sub-group). **Ow** represents the same sound as **ou** but only at the end of words (now), before a vowel (flower), or before the letter n (frown). Words such as row (of beans) are respelled “**ro(e)**”. **Ei** may only represent the sound in vein. **ie** may only represent the sound in die.

(e) Where a TS spelling does not come within the TSR rules on s and z

So: obzerv. (See above.)

(f) Where a TS spelling is an exception to another TS rule

So: guelding (because a **u** needs to be added to the **g** to preserve the /g/ sound before e,i and y). Similarly dystopic is respelled distopic to avoid confusion with the sound in cyanic.

(g) Where an irregular TS spelling pattern is too rare to be regarded as a sub-group:

e.g. cum (come), ruff (rough), throo (through).

(h) Two new vowel combinations: **uu** (w) for the sound in took; **aa** for the sound in

father. The **uu** is introduced because (apart from should, would and could) it is impossible to formulate an unambiguous rule to indicate which letters represent this sound in TS and **ou** and **ow** are reserved for the sound in cloud. Double **uu** may be contracted in writing to w, or to an apostrophe when following a consonantal w (e.g. pwdding, w'd (wood)). The new digraph **aa** is used for the sound in father, where there is no following r in TS. Words such as palm, psalm, calm etc are a recognised sub-group and can continue to represent the sound as in TS.

## F. Words Retained Unchanged from Traditional Spelling (Sign Words)

Most words not falling within TSR rules are respelled. However, a few common words may be retained in their TS form as “sign words”. These include the following categories – sign words underlined.

(a) Proper Nouns and Adjectives (e.g. London, Spanish)

(b) Personal Pronouns and Adjectives : I, you<sup>5</sup>, your(s), their(s), your(s), (NB he, me, she, and we are regarded as regular because they belong to the final -e sub-group – second e may be omitted.)

(c) Parts of the verbs to be, to do, and to have: are, was, were, do, does, done have.

(d) Numbers: (n)one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty.

(e) Days of the Week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

(f) Months of the Year: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November, December.

(g) Seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

(h) The following common words including their compounds: any, (e)very, (n)ever, of, only, (m)other, some, the, there, this, to, what, who(se), woman.

(i) Heterographs in TS which are also homophones are generally spelled in accordance with the rules of TSR. If the two different spellings are consistent with TSR, (including cases where one of the pair is a sign word) then the separate spellings can be retained (e.g., ate and eight, two and too). The current spelling of roughly two thirds of common TS heterographs can be retained under this rule. Otherwise, the irregular spelling(s) should be respelled in accordance with TSR's rules.

<sup>5</sup> But TSR allows you to be abbreviated to “U” as in texting.



- (j) Foreign words – where a word imported from a foreign language retains its original spelling, it is underlined or put in italics (e.g. chaise longue, Blitzkrieg etc).
- (k) How TSR deals with US / UK spelling differences (spelling followed by TSR in brackets):

-or – our	US (savior)
-er, -re	US (center)
-se, -ce	–ce, except where one wishes to distinguish verb from noun (eg license, licence)
-ction, -xion	the former (reflection)
-ize, -ise	US (size)
-yze, -yce	US (crystalize)
-og, -ogue	US (catalog)
-ae, -oe	US - replace with ae / oe with e (encyclopedia)
doubled consonants	The doubling rule must be observed correctly. Thus cancelation, but compelled.
dropped silent e	US (routing)
miscellaneous	generally US (eg program)

There are a few words where the difference between RP and GenAM pronunciation is so marked that it is impossible to represent the sound in question by a common grapheme. In these few cases a different spelling may be allowed for each accent, e.g. buoy, vase, tomato etc. (RP would spell these b'oy, vaaz, tomaato, GenAm would spell them booy, vaze, tomato.)

## Standard Texts

Words respelled from TS in green  
Sign words with irregular spelling retained from TS in red

## The Star (H G Wells)

<u>TS</u>	<u>TSR</u>
<p>It was on the first day of the new year that the announcement was made, almost simultaneously from three observatories, that the motion of the planet Neptune, the outermost of all the planets that wheel about the sun, had become very erratic. A retardation in its velocity had been suspected in December. Then a faint, remote speck of light was discovered in the region of the perturbed planet. At first this did not cause any great excitement. Scientific people, however, found the intelligence remarkable enough even before it became known that the new body was rapidly growing larger and brighter, and that its motion was quite different from the orderly progress of the planets.</p> <p>Words 114. Characters: 556</p>	<p>It was on <b>the</b> first day <b>of the</b> new <i>yeer</i> that <b>the</b> <i>announcement</i> <b>was</b> made, almost simultaneously from three <i>obzervatories</i>, that <b>the</b> motion <b>of the</b> <i>plannet</i> Neptune, <b>the</b> outermost <b>of all</b> <b>the</b> <i>plannets</i> that wheel about <b>the</b> sun, had <i>becum</i> <i>very</i> erratic. A retardation in its <i>veloccity</i> had been suspected in December. Then a faint, remote speck <b>of light</b> <b>was</b> <i>discuvverd</i> in <b>the</b> region <b>of the</b> perturbed <i>plannet</i>. At first this did not cause <b>any</b> <i>grate</i> excitement. <i>Syentiffic people</i>, however, found <b>the</b> intelligence remarkable <i>enuff</i> even <i>befor</i> it became <i>noen</i> that <b>the</b> new <i>boddy</i> <b>was</b> <i>rapidly going</i> larger and brighter, and that its motion <b>was</b> quite different from <b>the</b> orderly progress <b>of the</b> <i>plannets</i>.</p> <p>Words 114. Characters: 556 Words changed from TS: 19 (17%)</p>

## Britten when young (Frank Kermode)

<u>TS</u>	<u>TSR</u>
<p>We may nowadays be chary about using the word 'genius', but we still have a good idea what is meant by it. For example, there are great numbers of very gifted musicians who are admired but not called geniuses. But there are others, manifestly prodigious, performing often at extraordinary ages, a variety of feats so complex that the layman could hardly imagine, even with the most desperate labour, accomplishing any of them, while even musicians are astonished: and we tn reach for the good, handy, vague, Enlightenment word and call them geniuses. The list includes Mozart and Mendlessohn; and despite all the limiting judgements, it includes Benjamin Britten.</p> <p>Words 108 Characters 540</p>	<p>We may nowadays be chary about using <b>the</b> word 'genius', but we still <b>have</b> a <i>guud iedia</i> <b>what</b> is <i>ment</i> by it. For example, <b>there</b> are <i>grate</i> numbers <b>of very</b> gifted musicians <b>who</b> are admired but not called geniuses. But <b>there are</b> others, <i>mannifestly</i> prodigious, performing often at extraordinary ages, a <i>variyety of feets</i> so complex that <b>the</b> layman could hardly <i>imaggin</i>, even with <b>the</b> most desperate labor, <i>acumplishing</i> any <b>of</b> them, while even musicians <b>are</b> <i>astonnished</i>: and we then <i>reech</i> for <b>the</b> <i>guud</i>, handy, vague, Enlightenment word and call them geniuses. <b>The</b> list <i>incloods</i> <u>Mozart</u> and <u>Mendlessohn</u>; and despite all <b>the</b> <i>limmiting</i> judgments, it <i>incloods</i> Benjamin Britten.</p> <p>Words 108 Characters 540 Words changed from TS: 15 (14%)</p>

## Ode to a nightingale (John Keats)

<u>TS</u>	<u>TSR</u>
<p>'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot, But being so happy in thine happiness. That thou, light-winged Dryad of the trees. In some melodious plot Of beechen green, and shadows numberless, Singest of summer in full-throated ease.</p> <p>Words 38 Characters 185</p>	<p>'Tis not <i>throo</i> envy <b>of</b> thy happy lot, but being so happy in thine happiness, that thou, light-winged Dryad <b>of the</b> trees, in <i>some melodius</i> plot <b>of</b> beechen green, and <i>shaddoes</i> numberless, singest <b>of</b> summer in <i>fuul</i>-throated <i>eez</i>.</p> <p>Words 38 Characters 182 Words changed from TS: 5 (18%)</p>

## Fuzzy-opaque orthographical visions (C Upward)

<p style="text-align: center;">TS</p> <p>There was a poor boy couldn't spell          Half the words in our language too well.          His teachers thought: "Brain-sick!"          Mum and Dad hoped: "Dyslexic?"          Yet the child rashly jeered:          "What the hell!"</p> <p>Words 32 Characters 147</p>	<p><b>There was</b> a poor boy couldn't spell          Half <b>the</b> words in our language too well.          His <b>teechers</b> thought: "Brain-sick!"          Mum and Dad hoped: "<b>Dizlexic</b>?"          Yet <b>the</b> child rashly jeered:          "What <b>the</b> hell!"</p> <p>Words 32 Characters 145          Words changed from TS: 2 (6%)</p>
--	---

-----

### Appendix 2

**ESS phoneme word list submitted with personal view spelling schemes**  
**Each set of words represents one phoneme of English**  
**as derived from Longmans.**

TS	TSR	TS	TSR
pen, copy, happen	pen, <b>copy</b> , happen	lot, odd, wash	lot, odd, <b>wosh</b>
back, bubble, job	back, bubble, job	strut, bud, love	strut, bud, <b>luv</b>
tea, tight, button	<b>tee</b> , tight, button	foot, good, put	<b>fuut</b> , <b>guud</b> , <b>puut</b>
city, better	city, better	fleece, day, streak	fleece, day, <b>streek</b>
day, ladder, odd	day, ladder, odd	price, high, try	price, high, try
key, cock, school	<b>kee</b> , cock, school	choice, boy	choice, boy
get, giggle, ghost	get, giggle, ghost	goose, two, blue	<b>gooss</b> , two, <b>bloo</b>
Church, match, nature	church, match, nature	goat, show, no, cold	goat, <b>sho</b> , no, cold
judge, age, soldier	judge, age, soldier	mouth, now	mouth, now
fat, coffee, rough, move	fat, coffee, <b>ruff</b> , <b>moov</b>	near, here, serious	<b>neer</b> , here, <b>serius</b>
thing, author, path	thing, author, path	square, fair, various	square, fair, <b>vairius</b>
this, other, smooth	this, other, smooth	start, father	start, <b>faather</b>
soon, cease, sister	soon, <b>ceess</b> sister	thought, law	thought, law
zero, zone, roses	zero, zone, roses	north, war	north, war
ship, sure, station	ship, <b>shoor</b> , station	cure, poor, jury	cure, poor, jury
pleasure, vision	<b>plesure</b> , vision	nurse, stir	<b>nurss</b> , stir
hot, whole, behind	hot, <b>'hole</b> , behind	courage	<b>currage</b>
more, hammer, some	<b>mor</b> , hammer, some	happy, radiation, glorious	happy, radiation, <b>glorius</b>
nice, know, funny, sun	nice, <b>no</b> , funny, sun	about, comma, common	about, comma, common
ring, long, thanks, sung	ring, long, thanks, sung	influence, situation, annual	<b>infloonce</b> , situation, annual
light, valley, feel	light, <b>vally</b> , feel	intend, basic	intend, <b>baessic</b>
yet, use, beauty	yet, use, <b>buty</b>	stimulus, educate	<b>stimmulus</b> , <b>edducate</b>
wet, one, when, queen	wet, one, when, queen	kit, bid, hymn	kit, bid, <b>him</b>
dress, bed	dress, bed	trap, bad	trap, bad
<b>total characters TS :</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>Words 135</b>	
<b>total characters TSR</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>Words changed from TS in TSR: 34 (25%)</b>	

### SUB-GROUPS OF GRAPHEMES REPRESENTING ENGLISH VOWEL SOUNDS

These are groups of graphemes which occur relatively rarely in written English. They do not correspond to TSR's normal rules, but can generally be relied on to represent only one vowel sound. They are marked with an asterisk in the Tables at Part C above<sup>6</sup>.

- i The “-alm” / “-alf” combinations at end of words such as alms, balm, calm, palm, psalm / calf, half. Not to be confused with the few words mainly of Arabic origin that begin with this formula (e.g. algebra, algorithm).
- ii The “-air” combination **at the end of words** such as air, fair, hair, pair. This combination requires a concluding -r, because ai normally represents / eɪ / in TSR - e.g. laid, maiden.
- iii The “-alk” combination **at end of words** such as balk, calk, stalk, talk, walk.
- iv The “-all” combination **at end of words** such as all, ball, call, fall, gall, hall, mall, tall, wall. (The “-all” combination can be contracted to al- when occurring at the beginning of words such as almighty, also, almost, always, altogether, almighty (but only where the meaning of “al” is “every” or “total” (e.g. almighty = totally powerful). Not to be confused with words of Arabic origin such as algebra or algorithm.)
- v The “-ange” combination in words such as angel, change, danger, mange, manger, range, ranger. Some words respelled: flanĵ.
- vi The “-aste” combination **at the end of words** such as baste, haste, paste, taste, waste.
- vii The “-aught” combination in words such as aught, caught, taught, daughter, (laughter respelled lafter).
- viii The single “-e” **ending** in words such as me, he, she, we, the verb to be (and its compounds such as being).
- ix The “ei(gh)” combination in words such as vein, eight, freight, sleigh, weight.
- x The “-igh” combination as in fight, might, slight, night.
- xi The “-ign” combination **at the end of words and stressed** as in sign, assign, malign – but not at the beginning of words (eg igneous, ignor, signet)
- xii The “-ild” combination in single syllable words such as mild, child, wild, etc.
- xiii The “-ind” combination in single syllable words such as bind, find, kind, mind, rind, wind - verb (TS wind (noun) respelled winnd).
- xiv The –o(e) combination **at the end of words**. The e can be omitted in words such as go, no, so, banjo etc.
- xv The “old” combination **at the end of words** such as old, bold, cold, fold, sold, told, wold (plus combinations such as folder).
- xvi The “-olk” combination is folk and yolk.
- xvii The –ost combination **at the end of words** such as ghost, host, post, most, almost, (cost respelled cosst, frost respelled frosst).
- xviii The “-ought” combination in words such as bought, nought, wrought, sought (but see Part C for treatment of other words containing this formula in TS).
- xix The “ould” combination in “could”, “should”, & “would”. The sound /U/ in all other words is represented by uu (e.g. puuding) – may be contracted in writing to “w”.
- xx The “other” group in words such as other, brother, mother, another, smother. Stress is on the “o” and must be followed by “-ther”. Requires “bother” to be respelled “botther”
- xxi The “war-” combination **at the beginning of words** such as war, ward, warn, warp, warble, warden, wart.
- xxii The “wor-” combination **at the beginning of words** (e.g. word, work, worship) exception: worn.
- xxiii The usual affixes do not change the spelling (e.g. brothers, talks, folding).

---

<sup>6</sup> **Author’s Note:** The criteria for recognising a sub-group was whether the spelling was a repeatable pattern and whether the majority of words with this pattern significantly outnumbered any exceptions.