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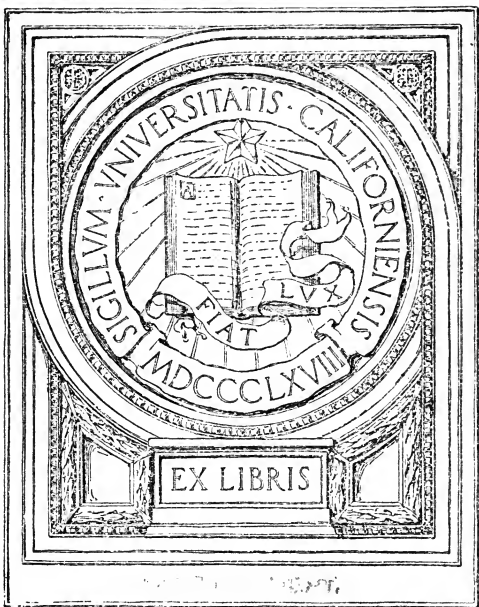
EVERYDAY
ERRORS
IN
PRONUNCIATION
SPELLING
SPOKEN ENGLISH

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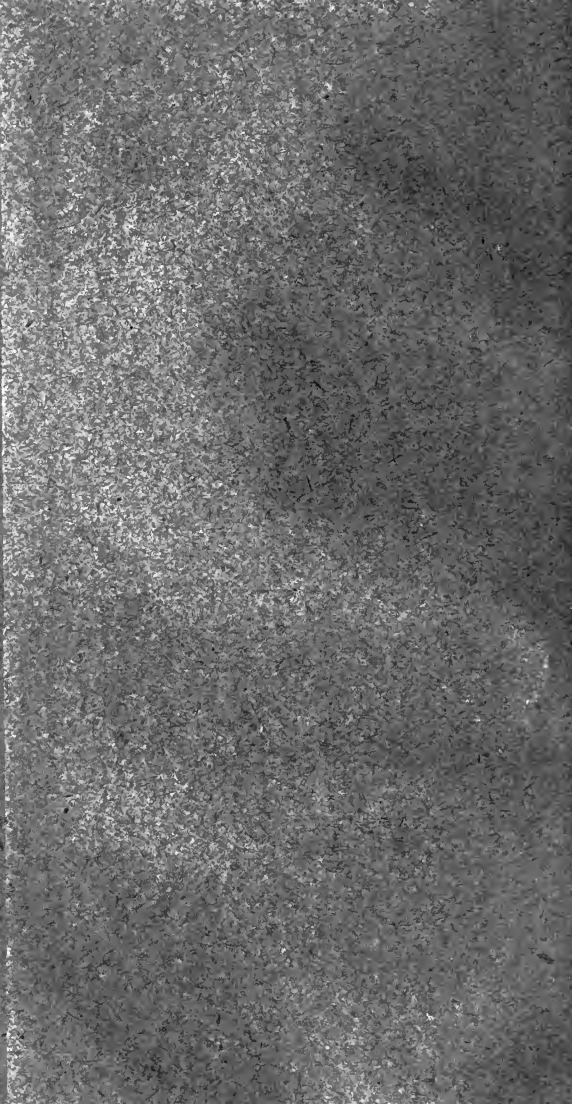


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EVERYDAY ERRORS

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EVERYDAY
ERRORS

IN

*Pronunciation, Spelling, and
Spoken English*

BY

GERTRUDE PAYNE

*Teacher of Reading and Public Speaking
in the State Normal School
San Jose, California*



SAN FRANCISCO
RICARDO J. OROZCO
1911

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

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

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

FOREWORD

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

From the multitude of "Common

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

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

G. P.

San Jose, California,
April, 1911.

ERRATA

Page

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

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A FEW VOWEL SOUNDS TO BE CAREFULLY NOTED

ā, *long a*, as in ate, canary, various

ă, *short a*, as in at, man, and, hand

ä, *Italian a*, as in arm, aunt, laugh

â, *intermediate a*, as in ask, chance, master. This also "obscure a", found in end syllables, as in â cā'-ci â, and in other unaccented syllables

â, *circumflex a*, as in air, chair, fairy

ą, *broad a*, as in all, daughter, water

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

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

America—a mĕr' i ca

cemetery—cem' e tĕr y

peremptory—pĕr' em to ry

peruke—pĕr uke' (or pĕr' uke)

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

Gǒd, mǒck

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

lūte, *not* lōot; counsel, *not* cōsul

PRONUNCIATION

- à—always obscure; never *long ā* in reading or speaking
- acacia—à kâ' shĭ à, *long ā* second syllable
- accept—ăk sĕpt', *not* to be confused with except
- acclimate—ăk klĭ' mât, accent second syllable
- accompaniment—ăk kŭm' pã nĭ ment, five syllables
- accurate—ăk' kŭ rât, *type-word** for "cutting no syllable short that should be sounded distinctly, and giving every vowel its true value"
- across—à krôs' *not* à crôst'. This ô is the "happy medium" between *short ǒ* in *nôt* and *broad ô* in *ôr*
- actor—ăk' tĕr, *not* äkt' ôr; *type-word**
- address—äd dress', *always*, noun and verb
- admirable—äd' mĭr à bl, *type-word**
- Adonis—à dō' nĭs, *not* ā dōn' ĭs
- adult—à dŭlt', *not* äd' ŭlt
- aerial—ā ē' rĭ äĭ, *not* ā' rĭ ěĭ
- again—à ġĕn' *not* ā ġân'; so à ġĕnst'
- ague—ā' ġŭ, *not* āġ, *nor* ā' ġĕr
- Alcott—ăĭ' kŭt, *not* äĭ' kōt'
- alias—ā' ĭ ĩ äs, *not* ā ĭ' as, *nor* äĭ' ĭ äs
- ally—ăĭ ĭ', both noun and verb

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

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

*See lists of all *type-words*

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

 cannot—kān' nōt, *not* kān nōt'
 can't—kānt, *not* kānt
 catch—kāch, *not* kēch
 Caucasian—kaw kā' shān
 cemetery—sēm' ē tēr ī, *not* sēm' ē trī,
nor sēm' ē tā' rī; *type-word** for ac-
 cent only on first syllable

*See list of *type-words*

- certain—sēr' tĭn, *not* sēr' t'n
 chastisement—chās' tĭz mĕnt
 chauffeur—shō fēr'
 Chelsea—chĕl' sē
 Chicago—shĭ kaw' gō, *not* chĭ kō' go
 children—chĭl' drĕn, *not* chĭl' dĕrn
 choose—chōōz, *not* chūz
 chorus—kō' rūs, *not* kōr' ūs
 civil—sĭv' ĩl, *not* sĭv' l
 clothes—klōthz, *not* klōz
 column—kōl' ūm, *not* kōl' yūm
 comely—kūm' lĭ, *not* kōm' lĭ
 company—kūm' pā nĭ, *not* kūmp' nĭ,
nor kūm' pān ē; *type-word** for fi-
 nal *y* like ĭ
 conjure (to enchant)—kūn' jĕr; to im-
 plore, kōn jūre'
 consummate (adjective) kōn sūm' māt
 cornet—kōr' nĕt, *not* cōr nĕt'
 cornucopia—kōr nū kō' pĭ ā
 corrupt—kōr rūpt', *not* kō rūpt'
 council—kown' sĭl,
 counsel—kown' sĕl, *not* kōn' sūl
 countenance—kown' tē nānce, *not* cōn
 covetous—kūv' ĕt ūs
 cranberry—krān' bĕr ĭ, *not* krām
 creek—krĕk, *not* krĭk
 crept—krĕpt; sound the *t*, and the same
 with *kept*, *swept*, *slept*
 cupola—kū' pō là, *not* kū' pā lō'
- daughter—daw' tĕr, *not* dōt' ĕr; *type-*
*word** for broad *a* sounds
 draught—drāft
 decade—dĕk' āde, *not* dē kād'
 defect—dĕ fĕkt', *not* dĕ' fĕkt

*See list of *type-words*

- deficit—dĕf' ĭ sīt, *not* dĕ fīs' ĭt
 Dickens's—dĭck' ĕns ěz; pronounce the
 's as separate syllable. *Type-word**
 for possessive singular of many
 proper names ending in s
 didactic—dĭd' äk' tik, *not* dĭ' däk' tick
 *type-word** for *short ĭ* in first syl-
 lable
 discourse—dĭs kōrs', *not* dĭs' kōrs
 dissertation—dĭs' ĕr tā' shŭn; *not* dĕs
 doth—dŭth, *not* dōth
 duel—dŭ' ĕl, *not* dōō' ŭl; *type-word** for
 long ū, pronounced like *ĭ'-ōō*
 Edinburgh—ĕd' ĭn bŭr ō, *not* ĕd' ĭn-
 bŭrgĕ
 efficient—ĕf fĭsh' ĕnt, *not* ĕ fĭsh' ŭnt
 either—ĕ' thĕr, better usage than
 ĭ thĕr; and the same with *neither*
 eleven—ĕ lĕv' n, *not* ŭ'lev'n, *nor* lĕv'n
 elm—ĕlm, *not* ĕl' ŭm
 elocution—ĕl ō kŭ' shŭn, *not* ĕl ĕ kŭ'
 shun
 emblem—ĕm' blĕm, *not* ĕm' blŭm; *prob-*
 lĕm and *Jerusalĕm*, also
 enemies—ĕn' ĕ mĭz, *not* ĕn' ĕ mĕz; *type-*
 word for *ies* pronounced like *ĭz*
 English—ĭng' ĝlĭsh, *not* ĕng' ĝlĭsh
 enthusiasm—ĕn thŭ' zĭ äzm, *not* ĭzm
 equipage—ĕk' wĭ pāj
 err—ĕr, *not* âr
 every—ĕv' ĕr ĭ, *not* ĕv' rĭ, unless con-
 tracted to *ĕv' ry*
 evil—ĕ' vl, *not* ĕ' vĭl, except in chant-
 ing or intoning
 exquisite—ĕks' kwĭz ĭt, *not* ĕks kwĭz' ĭ
 extant—ĕks' tānt, *not* ĕks tānt'

*See list of *type-words*

facet—fäs' ět, *not* fā' sět
 far—fär, *not* fûr; so *farther*
 fear—fēr, *not* fīr; so with *tears, beard,*
cheerful, here, hear, etc.
 February—fěb' rū ā rī; *not* fěb' ū ā rī
 fifth—fīfth, *not* fīft
 figure—fīg yēr, *not* fīg gēr
 finance—fī nānce'; so *fī nān' shāl*
 for—fôr, *not* fûr, *not* fōre
 forge—fôrj, *not* fôrj
 fountain—fown' tīn, *not* fownt' n; the
same with mountain
 fragrant—frā' grānt, *not* frāg' rünt
 from—fröm, *not* früm
 frontier—frön' tēr, *not* frün tēr'
 frontispiece—frönt' ĩs pēs

gather—gāth' ěr, *not* gēth' ěr
 genuine—jěn' yū ĩn, *not* jěn' ū ĩne'
 geography—jē ōg' rā fī, *not* jār' grā fy
 geometry—jē ōm' ě trī, *not* jōm' ě trī
 God—gōd; *not* gōd *nor* gawd, but the
 "golden mean"
 gondola—gōn' dō lā, *not* gōn dō' lā
 governor—gūv' ěr nēr, *not* gūv' nēr
 granary—grān' ā rī, *not* grān' ěr ĩ
 grievous—grēv' ūs, *not* grēv' ĩ us
 guests—gěsts *not* guess; sound final
 consonants; *type-word** for s-t-s

harem—hā' rěm
 harassed—hār' āst
 heigh-ho—hī' hō, *not* hā' hō
 height—hīte
 Hemans—hěm' ānz, *not* hē' manz
 humble—hūm' bl, *not* ūm' bl

*See list of *type-words*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

oppressed—*öp prĕst'*, *not* *õ' prĕst'*
 ordeal—*ôr' dĕ ál*, *not* *ôr dĕ' ál*
 or—*ôr*, *not* *are*
 our—*owr*, *not* *are*

pantomime—*păn' tō mīm*, *not* *mīm*; this
 word very often mispronounced
 partition—*pär tĭ' shŭn*, *not* *pĕ tĭ' shŭn*
 partner—*pärt' nĕr*, *not* *pärd' nĕr*
 partridge—*pär' trĭj*, *not* *pät' rĭj*
 pencil—*pĕn' sil*, *not* *pĕn' sŭl*
 perhaps—*pĕr häps'*, *not* *prĕ' häps*, *nor*
präps
 periodic—*pĕ rĭ öd' ik*, *not* *pĭr*, *nor* *pär*;
 the same with *period*
 perspiration—*pĕr spĭ rä' shŭn*, *not* *pres*
 pianist—*pĭ än' ĭst*, *not* *pĕ' än ĭst*
 pillow—*pĭl' lō*, *not* *pĭl' ũ*; *type-word**
 plague—*plāg*, *not* *plĕg*
 poem—*pō' ĕm*, *not* *pōm*, *nor* *pō' ũm*; so
pō' ĕt and *pō' ĕt rĭ*
 poinsettia—*poin sĕt' ĭ à*, *not* *poin sĕt' à*
 possess—*pōz zĕs'*, *not* *pō zes'*
 precedence—*prĕ sĕ' dĕnce*, *always*
 precedent—*prĕs' ĕ dĕnt*; *prĕ sĕ' dĕnt*
 when an adjective
 Presbyterian—*prĕz bĭ tĕ' rĭ än*, *not* *tĭr*
 presentation—*prĕz ĕn tā' shun*
 presumptuous—*prĕ zŭmpt' yŭ ũs*
 pretence—*prĕ tĕnce'*
 pretty—*prĭt' ĭ*, *not* *prĕt' ĭ*, *nor* *pŭr' tĭ*
 probably—*prōb' à blĭ*, *not* *prōb' ũ lĭ*
 program—*prō' grām*, *not* *prō' grŭm*
 promiscuous—*prō mĭs' kŭ ũs*
 pronunciation—*prō nŭn sĭ ā' shun*
 prophesy—*prōf' ĕ sĭ*; (verb)

*See list of *type-words*

- pumpkin—pŭmp' kĭn, *not* pŭng' kĭn
 put—poot, *not* pŭt
 quaff—kwaf, *not* kwaf *nor* kwaf
 quarrel—kwör' ěl, *not* kwarl
 qui vive—kē vēv' *not* kwē vēv'
 quoted—kwō' tĕd, *not* cōat' ed; the
 same with *quotation*
 really—rē' ăl lĭ, *not* rē' lĭ
 recess—rē sĕs', *not* rē' sĕs
 recognize—rĕk' ōg nĭz
 record—(noun) rĕk' ěrd, *not* rĕk' ôrd
 recourse—rē kōrs'
 research—rē sĕrch'
 resource—rē sōrs'
 reveillé—rē vāl' yā; in U. S. Army, rĕv-
 ă lĕ'
 rid—rĭd, *not* rĕd; gĕt rĭd, *not* "gĭt rĕd"
 ridiculous—rĭd ĭk' yŭ lŭs, *not* rĕ dĭk' ũ lŭs
 rinse—rĭnce, *not* rĕnce
 risk—rĭsk, *not* rĕsk
 robust—rō būst' *not* rō' būst
 roil—roil, *not* rĭl; so *boil*
 romance—rō mance', *not* rō' mance
 Roosevelt—rōz' vēlt, *not* rōos' vēlt
 rostrum—rōs' trŭm, *not* rō' strŭm
 sacrifice—săk' rĭf ĭz; noun and verb;
 some authorities give last syl-
 lable ĭs
 sacrilegious—săk rĭl ě' jŭs; almost al-
 ways pronounced lĭj' ũs
 sagacious—să gā' shŭs
 saith—sĕth, *noi* sâ' ĭth
 sarsaparilla—săr sâ pâ rĭl' ă, five syl-
 lables; *not* săs prĭl' ă
 satin—săt' ĭn, *not* săt' n
 scared—skârd, *not* skărt
 second—sĕk' ũnd, *not* sĕk' ũnt

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

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

truths—trūths, *not* trūthz

Tuesday—tūz' dā, *not* tōōz' dī

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

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

usage—yū'zāj, *not* yūs' ĭj

usually—yū' zhū āl ĭ, *not* yū' zhāl ĭ

usurp—yū zūrp', *not* yū sūrp'

vagary—vā gā' rī, *not* vā' gā rī

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

vaudeville—vōd' vīl

vehement—vē' hē mēnt

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

vessel—vēs' sēl, *not* vēs' l

volume—vōl' yūm, *not* vōl' yūm

wander—wōn' dēr, *not* wūn' dēr; and

wōn' dēr ĭng, *not* wōnd' rīng

wanted—wawnt' ěd, *not* wōnd'

was—wōz, *not* wūz

water—waw' tēr, *not* wōt' ěr

well—wēl, *not* wāl, *nor* wōōl

were—wēr, *not* wāre

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

wharf—hwarf, *not* warf; *type-word**

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

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

*See list of *type-words*

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

Xantippe—zän tip' ē

yacht—yöt, *not* yät
 yonder—yön' dēr, *not* yën' dēr, *nor*
 yün dēr
 youths—yōoths, *not* yōothz

zoology—zō öl' ō jī, *not* zōō öl' ō jī



*TYPE-WORDS

“Give every vowel its true value”:

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

Final *or* like *ēr*:

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

able-words accented on first syllable:

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

Intermediate-à words:

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

Long *ē* in second syllable

bacteria—bǎk tē' rĭ á
 criterion—krĭ tē' rĭ un
 deteriorate—dē tē' rĭ ēr āt
 experience—ĕx pē' rĭ ěnce
 interior—ĭn tē' rĭ ēr
 material—mā tē' rĭ ǎl
 superior—sū pē' rĭ ēr

Long *be* in first syllable

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

Long sound of *ō*

broom, *not* brōom, *not* brŭm
 food, *not* fōod
 foolish, *not* fōol' ish
 noon, *not* nōon, *nor* nŭn
 poor, *not* pōre
 roof, *not* rōof, *nor* rŭf
 room, *not* rōom, *nor* rŭm
 root, *not* rōot, common error!
 spoon, *not* spōon *nor* spŭn
 soon, *not* sōon *very* common error
 woof, *not* wōof

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

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

Final *y* like *ĭ*, *not* like *ē*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Short *ī* in last syllable:

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

Short *ī* in middle syllable:

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

pessimist—pēs' sĭ mĭst
 matinée—măt ĭ nă'
 solitude—söl' ĭ tūd, *not* söl' ũ tōod
 ludicrous—lū' dĭ krūs
 possible—pös' sĭ bl

Short *ĭ* in first syllable

didactic—dĭd äk' tĭk
 digestion—dĭ jēs' chŭn
 digression—dĭ ġrēsh' ũn
 diploma—dĭ plō' mā
 director—dĭ rĕk' tēr
 diverge—dĭv ěrj'
 diversion—dĭv ěr' shun
 divert—dĭ vērt'
 minute—mĭ nŭt'

Long *ū*, like *ĭ'-ōō*

absolute—äb' sō lūt, *not* lōot
 culinary—kū' lĭ nă rĭ
 due—dū; and dū' tŷ
 Luke—lūk *not* lōok
 music—mū zĭk
 nude—nūd
 numerous—nū' mēr ũs
 pseudo—sū' dō
 pursue—pēr sū'
 student—stū' dĕnt *not* stōodent
 stupid—stū' pĭd *not* stōōpid
 suit—sūt
 tube—tūb
 tulip—tū' lĭp
 tumult—tū' mŭlt
 tune—tūn, *not* tōon
 tutor—tū' tēr

Also:

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

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

enemies— <i>ĕn' ě mĭz</i>
calamities— <i>kā lām' ĭ tĭz</i>
injuries— <i>ĭn' jŭ rĭz</i>
parodies— <i>pār' ō dĭz</i>
perplexities— <i>pĕr plĕx' ĭ tĭz</i>
capabilities— <i>kā pā bĭl' ĭ tĭz</i>
deficiencies— <i>dĕ fĭsh' ĕn sĭz</i>

Sound final *sts*:

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

ow not to sound like *ŭ*:

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

Also words ending in o:

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

wh pronounced like *hw*:

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

**THE FOLLOWING LISTS SHOULD
ALSO BE STUDIED**

shr not to be like *sr*:

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

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

proceed $\check{e}d$	lead $\check{e}th$
educat $\check{e}d$	restor $\check{e}th$
result $\check{e}d$	believ $\check{e}th$
salut $\check{e}d$	ask $\check{e}th$
toast $\check{e}d$	com $\check{e}th$
visit $\check{e}d$	seek $\check{e}th$
wait $\check{e}d$	find $\check{e}th$

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

goodn $\check{e}ss$	help $\check{e}ss$
righteousn $\check{e}ss$	mercil $\check{e}ss$
foolishn $\check{e}ss$	sleep $\check{e}ss$
frankn $\check{e}ss$	hopel $\check{e}ss$
highn $\check{e}ss$	lifel $\check{e}ss$
kindn $\check{e}ss$	nervel $\check{e}ss$
madn $\check{e}ss$	restl $\check{e}ss$

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

attachm $\check{e}nt$	mom $\check{e}nt$
governm $\check{e}nt$	announcem $\check{e}nt$
commandm $\check{e}nt$	commencem $\check{e}nt$
presid $\check{e}nt$	commitm $\check{e}nt$
managem $\check{e}nt$	reg $\check{e}nt$
oppon $\check{e}nt$	banishm $\check{e}nt$

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

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

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

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

Do not pronounce *ing* like *in*:

sing**ing**, not s**ĭ**ng' *ĭn*
 someth**ing**, not s**ŭ**m' *tĭn*
 swing**ing**, not sw**ĭ**ng' *ĭn*
 sew**ing**, not s**ō**' *ĭn*
 draw**ing**, not draw' *ĭn*
 think**ing**, not think' *ĭn*

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

had, not say "hat to" for *had to*
 land**l**ord, not l**ă**n' lord
 thous**and**, not thouz' n
 used, not y**ŭ**st
 friend**sh**ip, not fr**ĕ**n' ship
 wind**pi**pe, not w**ĭ**n' p**ĭ**p
 hand**sh**ake
 kind**ness**
 r**in**d
 sand**-**pile
 err**an**d

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

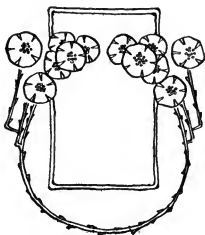
“Let not *your* heart,” not chūre

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

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

“Men shall persecute *you*”

“As I have loved *you*”



SPELLING

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

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

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

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

affiliate—af fil' i ate; one *l*

alcohol—al' co hol

all right—two words; *not* alright

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

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

annual—an' nu al; two *n*'s

anonymous—a non' y mous

appetite—ap' pe tite; two *p*'s

appropriate—ap pro' pri ate

bachelor—bach' e lor

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

benefited—ben' e fit ed; one *t*

bilious—bil' ious; one *l*

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

bureau—bu' reau

business—busi' ness (*biz' ness*)

calendar—cal' en dar

canvas—can' vas, a coarse cloth

canvass—can' vass, to solicit

capital—cap' i tal, city

Capitol—Cap' i tol; building

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

chaparral—chap ar ral'; two *r*'s

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

Christian—Chris' tian, *i-a-n*

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

college—col' lege; no *d* in the word

connoisseur—con nois seur'

conscientious—con sci en' tious

convenience—con ven' ience

correspondent—cor re spond' ent

courageous—cou ra' geous

currant—cur' rant, fruit

current—cur' rent, in stream

delicious—de li' cious

description—de scrip' tion; *not* dis

dessert—des sert'

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

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

ecstasy—ec' sta sy

effective—ef fect' ive; *not* af

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

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

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

erysipelas—er y sip' e las

exhilarate—ex hil' a rate (egz il')

facsimile—fac sim' i le

Fahrenheit—Fah' ren heit

fascinate—fas' ci nate

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

flannel—flan' nel; two *n*'s, one *l*

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

gauge—*a* before *u*

Gibraltar—Gi bral' tar, *not* ter

grammar—gram' mar, *not* e-r

hallelujah—hal le lu' jah, *or* iah

hemorrhage—hem' or rhage

hygiene—hy' gi ene

Iliad—Il' i ad; one *l*

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

incandescent—in can des' cent

initiation—in i ti a' tion

inflammation—in flam ma' tion

judgment—judg ment; better without
the *e*

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

labyrinth—lab' y rinth

led—past tense of *lead*

loose—not bound; or to unbind

lose—to mislay (one's book or purse)

mademoiselle—mad em oi selle'

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

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

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

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

parallel—par' al lel
 paralysis—pa ral' y sis
 parliamentary—par lia men' ta ry
 paroxysm—par' ox ysm
 peaceable—peace' a ble
 pedler—ped' ler; *or* lar, *or* peddler
 permanent—perm' a nent
 personnel—per son nel'

Philippines—Phil' ip pines; one *l*, two
 p's

pleasant—pleas' ant
 postponement—post pone' ment
 preceding—pre ced' ing; one *e* in sec-
 ond syllable
 prejudice—prej' u dice
 prevalent—prev' a lent
 primitive—prim' i tive

principal—prin' ci pal, noun and adjective

principle—prin' ci ple, noun; *rarely* verb

privilege—priv' i lege; no *a* in the word

proceeding—pro ceed' ing; two *e*'s

professor—pro fes' sor; one *f*, two *s*'s

promissory—prom' is so ry

psychical—psy' chic al

psychological—psy cho log' ic al

quandary—quan' da ry

quarantine—quar' an tine

querulous—quer' u lous

queue—ku (Chinaman's braid)

recommend—rec om mend', one *c*,
two *m*'s

remember—re mem' ber

reminiscence—rem i nis' cence

resurrection—res ur rec' tion

resuscitate—re sus' ci tate

rhapsody—rhap' so dy

rhythm—one syllable

schedule—sched' ule

separate—sep' a rate

singeing—singé' ing

souvenir—sou ve nir'

speech—no *a*

spring—small *s*, unless personified;
the same with all the seasons

statue—stat' ue, a plastic figure

stature—stat' ure, natural height of
man

statute—stat' ute, a law

supercilious—su per cil' i ous

surely—sure' ly

suspicious—sus pi' cious

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

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

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

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

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

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

RULES FOR SPELLING

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

RULE FOR DOUBLING

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

Monosyllables:

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

Words accented on last syllable:

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

FINAL-E RULE

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

Dropped:

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

Retained:

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

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

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

“*i* before *e*”

believe
 grieve
 niece
 relieve
 siege
 sieve
 wield

“*e* before *i*”

conceive
 deceive
 perceive
 receive
 receipt
 seize
 weird

SPOKEN ENGLISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I says

It don't

There's four mistakes

Any person can correct them if they try

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every one must do *his* best!

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

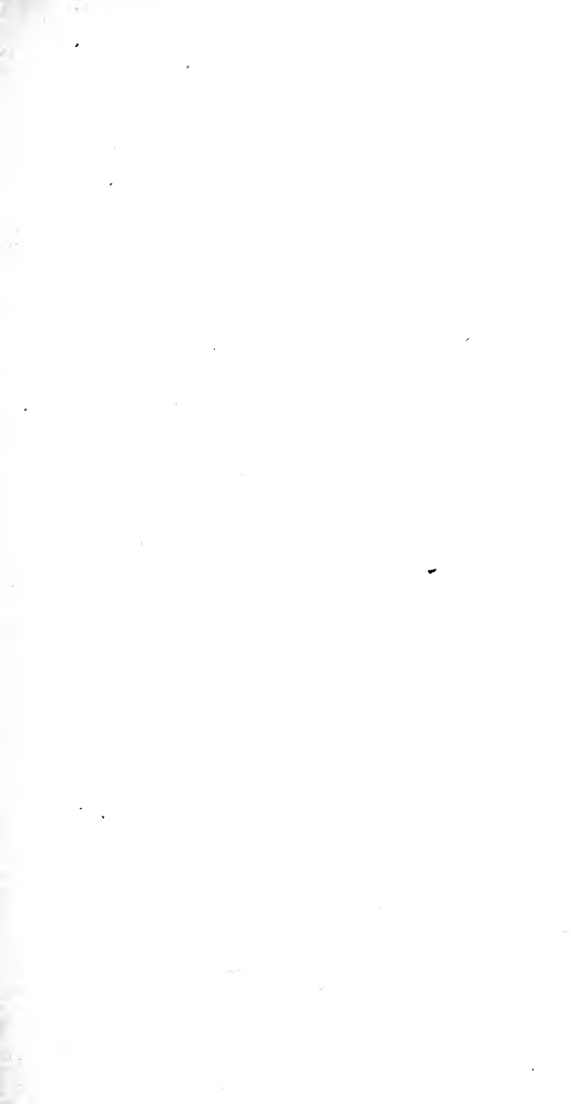




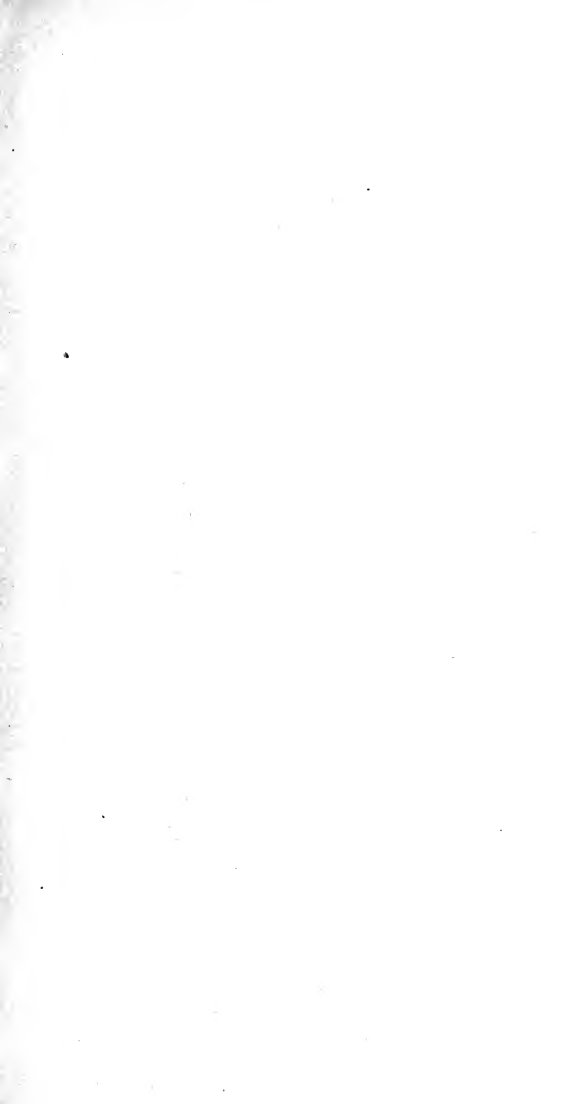




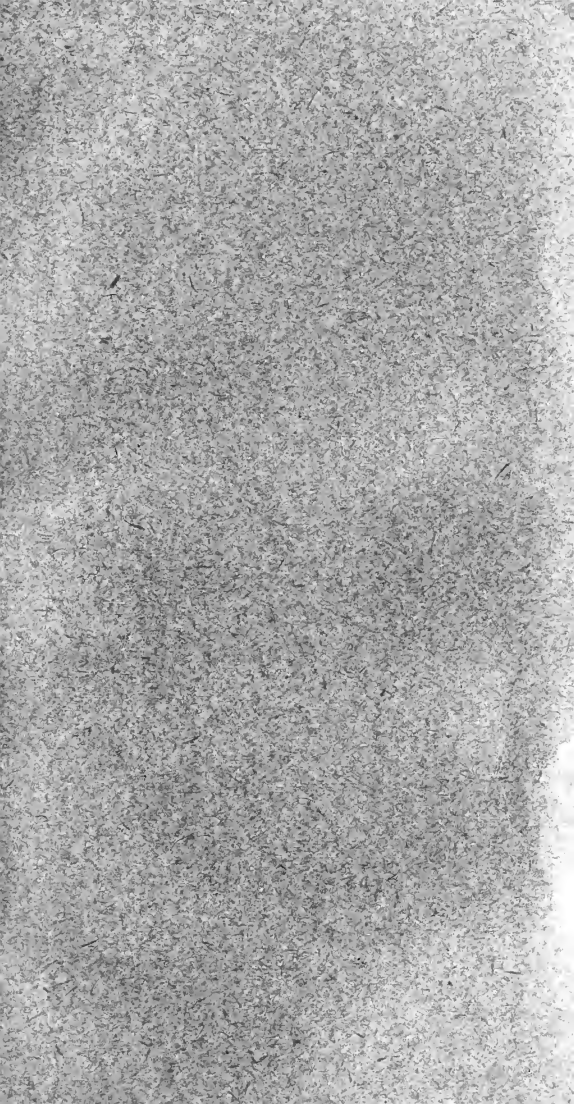














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EVERYDAY ERRORS

