

**SEVEN HUNDRED
SPELLING AND DEFINING
LISTS. THE PRACTICAL
SPELLER AND DEFINER**

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Seven Hundred Spelling and Defining Lists. The Practical Speller and Definer by B. K. Benson & F. A. Glenn

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B. K. BENSON & F. A. GLENN

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THE PRACTICAL SPELLER

AND

DEFINER

BY

B. K. BENSON AND F. A. GLENN

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PREFACE

THE alphabetical arrangement of the words in a dictionary makes gradation impossible; hence the failure of the dictionary as a book for classes.

This book is graded with respect to the difficulties in acquiring words; namely:

I. Difficulty in Pronunciation.

Its correct sound is the less important form of a word; wherever no greater difficulty exists, the work is graded in difficulty of pronunciation.

II. Difficulty in Spelling.

Its letters, in their exact succession, constitute the second, and, to the scholar, the more important of the two forms of a word; hence, the grading has greater regard for spelling than for pronunciation.

III. Difficulty in Definition.

The definitions are simpler than the words defined; difficult words are defined before they are used in definition. The content of a word is its meaning. The chief purpose of the book is to teach the pupil the uses of words; to assist this purpose the words are grouped according to laws of association:

1. The law of similarity.

Words of nearly synonymous meaning, and words with some common relationship, are defined in groups, and with illustrations showing differences in usage. (See Lessons 13, 103, 208, 346, 408, 522, 633, 718.)

2. The law of contrast.

Words of opposite meaning are grouped; their contrast is shown in their definitions. (See Lessons 35, 116, 269, 371, 414, 590, 670, 714.)

3. The law of description.

The noun is preceded by an appropriate adjective, that the definitions of both may be reinforced. (See Lessons 1, 113, 258, 370, 403, 532, 693, 701.)

4. The law of suggestion.

The words of a lesson are so arranged that, when read downwards, they suggest a complete sentence. (See Lessons 29, 161, 201, 301, 465, 567, 696, 716.)

The book rejects colloquial words, scientific and other technical terms rarely used, words too simple to require study, and many derivatives whose meanings are known as soon as their primitives are known. The remaining words—the most serviceable words—are retained, and are divided into lessons of but ten words each. The arrangement and gradation will enable the pupil, in four years of pleasant work, to incorporate the great body of the English language into his own vocabulary.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

LONG VOWELS

ē, as in <i>day</i>
ē, " <i>she</i>
ī, " <i>high</i>
ō, " <i>no</i>
ū, " <i>due</i>
ȳ, " <i>by</i>

SHORT VOWELS

æ, as in <i>bat</i>
ɛ, " <i>bet</i>
ɪ, " <i>bit</i>
ɔ, " <i>hot</i>
ʌ, " <i>hut</i>
ɹ, " <i>lyne</i>

OTHER SOUNDS OF THE VOWELS

ā, as in <i>care</i>	ɛ̄ = ā, as in <i>there</i>
ā, " <i>arm</i>	ɛ̄ = ē, " <i>fete</i>
ā, " <i>ask</i>	ī = ē, " <i>machine</i>
ɛ̄, " <i>talk</i>	ə = ɔ, " <i>what</i>
oo, " <i>food</i>	o, " <i>nor</i>
oo, " <i>foot</i>	o = oo
oo unmarked = ū, as in <i>blood</i>	ó = ū
ī, as in <i>sir</i>	ɹ, " <i>rude</i>
ē, " <i>her</i>	ɹ, " <i>full</i>
ȳ, " <i>myrrh</i>	ŭ, " <i>burn</i>

THE ACCENTED SYLLABLES

At the end of an accented syllable, any unmarked vowel is long, as in *ma'son, me'ter, mi'ner, mo'ment, mu'sic, my*.

In an accented syllable ending in a consonant, or consonant sound, the unmarked vowel is short, as in *bat'ter, bes'ter, bit'ter, blot'ter, bu'tter, re lapse', in tense', etc.*

Exception

Before r in the same syllable	{	unmarked a = ā, as in <i>arm</i>
		" e = ē " <i>her</i>
		" i = ī " <i>sir</i>
		" u = ū " <i>burn</i>
		" y = ȳ " <i>myrrh</i>

SYLLABLES NOT ACCENTED

Any unmarked vowel, which is itself an unaccented syllable, has an obscure sound, as *a* in *glow'*, *e* in *event'*, *o* in *pár'o dy*, *u* long in *reg'u lar*, etc.

At the end of an unaccented syllable the unmarked vowel or diphthong has an obscure sound, as in *ma chine'*, *pe ruse'*, *di lúto'*, *ro bust'*, *mas'cu line* (obscure long *u*), and in the terminations *y*, *ly*, *ley*, etc. Within an unaccented syllable, ending in a consonant sound, the unmarked vowel, when rapidly uttered, has its obscure sound, as in *la'bor er*, *fa'vor*, *fa'tal*, etc. If the full and slow utterance be given, the vowel has a more distinct sound.

SILENT VOWELS

Unmarked *e* is silent at the end of a monosyllable or syllable containing another vowel, as in *therefore*, *hope*, *strive*, etc., and in any word made by adding *s* or *d* to such monosyllable or syllable, as *hopes*, *hoped*, *strives*, etc.

Unmarked *e* is silent at the end of the syllables *ble*, *cle*, *dle*, *fle*, *gile*, *ple*, etc., and of their forms made by adding *s* or *d*, as in *multiple*, *manacles*, *mangle*, *bundled*, etc.

Diphthongs and triphthongs take the sound of the marked vowel, all the others being silent.

beauty=búty, *search*=sérch, *courage*=cúrage, *guides*=gíd, *rein*=ráu.

ai	unmarked	= á, as in <i>straight</i>
ay	"	= á, " <i>hay</i>
ey	"	= á, " <i>they</i>
ee	"	= é
ea	"	= ée, " <i>beach</i>
ew	"	after <i>r</i> or <i>s</i> = ú, as in <i>drew</i> , <i>sewer</i> , etc.
ew	"	after all consonants except <i>r</i> and <i>s</i> = á, as in <i>few</i> , <i>dew</i> , etc.
u	"	after <i>r</i> = u in <i>rude</i> , <i>rule</i> , etc.
oa	"	= ó, as in <i>road</i> , <i>load</i> , <i>oar</i>
ous	"	= us, as in <i>studious</i> , <i>enormous</i> , etc.
aw	}	" = aw in <i>fawn</i> , au in <i>haul</i>
au		
ou	}	" = ou in <i>foul</i> , ow in <i>fowl</i>
ow		

of	} unmarked = <i>of</i> in <i>oil</i> , <i>oy</i> in <i>boy</i>
oy	
ia	
io	
ie	} " { beginning a syllable = <i>ya</i> , <i>ye</i> , etc., as in <i>pon tawd</i> , <i>pos tū ion</i> , <i>is gen ious</i> , etc.

MARKED CONSONANTS

c, hard, as in <i>cat</i>	ç, soft, as in <i>face</i>
ch, hard, as in <i>chaem</i>	ch = sh, as in <i>chaise</i>
Ġ, ġ, hard, as in <i>get</i>	Ġ, ġ, soft, as in <i>age</i>
z = z, as in <i>ease</i>	su = shu ʒ = gz
th, soft, as in <i>then</i>	n = nġ, as in <i>linger</i> , <i>link</i>

c	unmarked	is hard before a, o, u
o	"	is soft " e, i, y
o	"	is hard at the end of a syllable
ch	"	as in <i>chais</i>
ġ	"	is hard before a, o, u
g	"	is soft " e, i, y
th	"	as in <i>thís</i>
wh	"	as in <i>when</i>
ph	"	= f
gu	"	= gw
gue	"	= ġ
qu	"	= kw
que	"	= k

When unmarked, the syllables

tion	} = shun or shan, as in	{ <i>attention</i> <i>tension</i> <i>ocean</i> <i>patrician</i> <i>suspicion</i> <i>possession, admission</i>
ston		
cean		
clan		
clon		
salon	} = zhun, as in <i>erosion</i>	
stion		
ceal	} = shul or shal, as in	{ <i>official</i> <i>martial</i> , etc.
cial		
sial		
tial		

ce	}	= { shi, before ous and ate } as in	}	<i>cretaceous</i>
ci				<i>suspicious</i>
ti				<i>ambitious</i>
sci				<i>conscious</i>
se				<i>nauseous, nauseate</i>
ci				<i>associate</i>
si				<i>Asia</i>
ti		<i>vitiate</i>		

tien = shen tian = chun
cient, sient, tient = shent

Either *g* or *k* before *n* in the same syllable is silent, as in *sign, gnat, known*, etc.

Unless otherwise noted, the digraph *gh* is silent, as in *fraught, sigh*, etc. See *Slough*, 78 and 222.

Consonants in italics are silent, as *wreck. herb.*