

**SANDERS' UNION SPELLER:
BEING A CLEAR AND COMPLETE
EXHIBITION OF ENGLISH
ORTHOGRAPHY AND ORTHOEPEY**

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Sanders' Union Speller: Being a Clear and Complete Exhibition of English Orthography and Orthoepey by Charles W. Sanders

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CHARLES W. SANDERS

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SANDERS'
UNION SPELLER:

BEING

A CLEAR AND COMPLETE EXHIBITION

OF

ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY AND ORTHOËPY,

OR

THE BASIS OF THE NEW ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF WEBSTER'S
GREAT AMERICAN DICTIONARY,

TOGETHER WITH

NUMEROUS EXERCISES IN SYNONYMS, IN OPPOSITES, IN ANALYSIS,
AND IN FORMAL DEFINITION; THE WHOLE ADAPTED TO
THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

BY CHARLES W. SANDERS, A. M.,

AUTHOR OF "SERIES OF SCHOOL READERS;" "ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH WORDS;"
"ELEMENTARY AND ELOCUTIONARY CHART," ETC., ETC.

NEW YORK:
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P R E F A C E.

THE aim in this book has been to bring into shape, suitable for daily use in the schools, the clear and complete exhibition of English Orthography and Orthoëpy, found in the last edition of Webster's great American Dictionary.

The plan adopted for this purpose is, in several respects, quite out of the beaten track for works of this kind.

This will especially appear in the series of exercises on the powers and uses of the vowels, which, though prepared for this special purpose, have, nevertheless, all the simplicity of ordinary spelling lessons.

It will appear, also, in the method employed for the illustration of the several Rules for Spelling, which are here supported, not, as is usual, by a few instances, however appropriate, but by such an array of examples, all digested into lessons of convenient size, as can not fail to fix in the mind of the learner the means of determining at once the true spelling of *thousands* of words.

In the collection of TEST WORDS, too, will be found a feature singularly useful for the higher classes in schools, and for Teachers' Institutes; embracing, as it does, over *two thousand* words, so arranged as to reveal many similarities and differences that ordinarily escape the attention of youth entirely.

The whole is eminently *practical*. It shows the laws and usages of the language in respect to *spelling* and *pronunciation*, it explains by *comparison*, by *contrast*, by *analysis*, and by formal *definition*, the true meaning and application of words; yet all this is done without cumbering the path of the pupil with any perplexing details of theoretic teaching.

It remains to be added that this UNION SPELLER, which is the product of no small labor and thought, has had, in its preparation throughout, the aid and counsel of JAMES N. McELLIOTT, LL. D., of New York City, whose services we have had the satisfaction to acknowledge in the preparation of several previous works.

New York, July, 1865.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1865, by

CHARLES W. SANDERS,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York.

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SANDERS' UNION SPELLER.

SECTION I. ORTHOGRAPHY.

ORTHOGRAPHY treats of letters, syllables and words.

LETTERS are marks, or characters used to represent the sounds of the human voice, heard in speaking. The number of letters in English is twenty-six. In respect to form, they are distinguished as *capitals* and *small letters*. In respect to the sounds they are employed to represent, they are either *vowels* or *consonants*.

A **VOWEL** represents a free, uninterrupted sound of the voice. The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u, y*. *W*, also, when preceded by a vowel in the same syllable, has sometimes the force of a vowel, as in the words *few, cow, power*. *I*, followed by a vowel in the same syllable, as in *alien* (*al yen*), is a consonant; so, also, is *y*, as in *yet*. *U*, after *q*, and sometimes after *g* and *s*, is a consonant equal to *w*, as in *quit* (*kwit*), *languid*, *assuage*.

A **DIPHTHONG** is the union of two vowels in the same syllable; as *oi* in *oil*. If, however, *one* only of the vowels is sounded, the diphthong is called *improper*.

A **TRIPHTHONG** is the union of three vowels in the same syllable; as *ieu* in *lieu*.

A **CONSONANT** is a letter that represents a sound of the voice, modified by some interruption from the organs of speech. The consonants are separately considered in Section II.

A **SYLLABLE** is a letter, or a combination of letters, uttered by one emission of the voice; as, *boy*, *boy'ish*.

A **WORD** is a syllable, or a combination of syllables, significant of some thought, or idea; as, *house*, *manly*.

A word of *one* syllable is called a **MONOSYLLABLE**, a word of *two* syllables, a **DISSYLLABLE**, a word of *three* syllables, a **TRISYLLABLE**, a word of *four* or more syllables, a **POLYSYLLABLE**.

A **PRIMITIVE WORD** is one derived from no other word; as, *fear*.

A **DERIVATIVE WORD** is one formed from a primitive, by means of prefixes and suffixes; as, *fear less*, *re turn*.

A **SIMPLE WORD** is one not compounded; as, *milk*, *man*.

A **COMPOUND WORD** is one composed of two or more simple ones; as, *milkman*, *nevertheless*.

ACCENT is a special stress of the voice, which distinguishes one syllable above others in the same word; as, *hap' py*, *be dew'*.

Accent is either *primary*, as that on the last syllable of *in tend'*, or *secondary*, as that on the first syllable of *su' per in tend'*.

ORTHOEPY treats of the proper *pronunciation* of words, as **Orthography** treats of their proper *spelling*.

SECTION II.

POWERS AND USES OF THE LETTERS.

VOWELS.

Each of the vowels has its *regular long, short*, and its *occasional* sounds which are distinctly marked in the Key, pages 14 and 15. All these various vowel sounds, as also some that are *exceptional*, will be found fully illustrated in the opening exercises of this book.

CONSONANTS.

B.

B has but one sound, as in *bid, rib*. Before *t* and after *m* in the same syllable, it is generally silent, as in *debt, bomb*. It is, also, silent in *bellium*.

C.

C has the sound of *s* before *e, i, or y*, as in *cent, cite, cyst, doc'ile*. This is its soft sound. Before *a, o, u, l, or r*, as in *cat, cot, cut, clot, crop*—before *k, s, or t* final, as in *hack, optics, act*, and, also, when it ends a word, or a syllable not followed by *e, i, or y*, as in *lac, tactic*, it has the sound of *k*. This is its hard sound. In a few words, it has the sound of *z*, as in *rice (size), suffice, sacrifice*; in some cases, it is silent, as in *Clear, indict, victuals, muscle*.

D.

The regular sound of this letter is heard in *sad, date, madden*; after a whispered, or sharp consonant in the same syllable, it has the sound of *t*, as in *mised (mist), vexed*. In *Wednesday, handsome, handkerchief*, and *wind' row*, it is silent.

F.

This letter has but one sound, as in *flame, soft, staff*, except in the word *of*, which is pronounced *ov*. It is never silent.

G.

G, before *a, o, and u*, as in *gale, gore, gun*, has, except in the word *gaol* (*jāle*), a hard sound; also, before *l* and *r*, as in *glad, grope*, and occasionally before *e, i* and *y*, as in *get, give, logy*. It has this hard sound always at the end of a word, or a syllable not followed by *e, i, or y*, as in *beg, big, bog*; so, too, when doubled, as in *begging, biggest, boggy*. Before *e, i, and y*, however, with very few exceptions, *g* has its soft sound, as in *gem, ginger, gypsum, rigid*. In a few words, *g* has the sound of *zh*, as in *rouge* (*roosh*). Before *m* and *n* it is silent, as in *phlegm, sign, gnat*.

H.

H represents a mere breathing, or aspirate, as in *home, hat*. It is silent after *g*, as in *ghost*, after *r*, as in *rhyme*, as also when preceded by a vowel in the same syllable, as in *oh, Jehovah*.

J.

J has very nearly the sound of *dzh*, being the precise equivalent of *g* soft, as in *jibe*. In *hallelujah*, (when spelled with *j*;) it has the sound of *y*. It is never silent.

K.

K has but one sound, as in *ken, kin*. It is silent before *n* in the same syllable, as in *knight*; also after *c*, as in *back*.

L.

L has but one sound, as in *lame, land, meller*. It is sometimes silent, especially before a final consonant, as in *calm, walk, would, half*.

M.

M has but one sound, as in *make, clam, hammer*. It is silent before *n* in the same syllable, as in *mnemonics*.

N.

N has two sounds,—that heard in *note, ten, nail*, and that in *linger, link, uncle*, which latter is essentially the same sound as that represented by *ng*. This sound it has, as a general rule, before *g, k, c, q,* and *x*, as in *anger (ang' ger), link, cinque (sink), zinc, minx*.

P.

P has but one sound,—that heard in *pen, lip, hop*, except in the words *cupboard (küb' wrd)* and *clapboard (klab' bōrd)*, where it has the sound of *b*. It is silent, when initial, before *n, s* and *t*, as in *pneumatic, psalm, ptarmigan*; so, also, in a few other cases, as in *receipt, corps (cōre), raspberry*.

Q.

This letter always occurs before *u*, and the two (*qu*) together have the sound generally of *kw*, as in *quiet (kwiet)*. In some words, however, *qu* has the sound of *k* only, as in *coquette (kokët), antique*.

R.

Before a vowel in the same syllable, as in *ream, dream*, as also when *between* two vowels, the first of which is short, as in *bäron, mērit, flōrid*, the letter *r* has a rough, or trilled sound. In other situations, it has a smooth or palatal sound, as in *far, form, terse*; while in others still, it has this smooth, or palatal sound combined with an obscure vowel sound, somewhat like that of *u* in *urge*, as in the words *fare, ore, our*. *R* is never silent.