

**PRONOUNCING
HANDBOOK OF WORDS
OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED**

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Pronouncing Handbook of Words Often Mispronounced by Richard Soule & Loomis J. Campbell

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PRONOUNCING HANDBOOK

OF

WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED

AND OF

*WORDS AS TO WHICH A CHOICE OF PRONUNCIATION
IS ALLOWED*

BY

RICHARD SOULE

AND

LOOMIS J. CAMPBELL



BOSTON
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PREFACE.

It is the purpose of this Handbook to report the current usage of the best speakers with regard to such words as are the most liable to be mispronounced, and also to record such words as may be pronounced in either of two ways without any offence to good taste.

In the latter case, that mode which is supported by the greater weight of authority and is the more generally accepted is put first in order.

In the preparation of the book the latest editions of the Quarto Dictionaries of Webster and Worcester have been examined with care, and also the works of the eminent English orthoëpists, Smart, Cull, and Cooley, who make known the best usage of cultivated Englishmen of the present day. Still further research has been made whenever it seemed desirable.

INTRODUCTION.



1. Marked Letters.

THE following words will serve to indicate the sounds of the marked letters used in the Vocabulary:—

e, **æ**, **at**, **ice**, **old**, **use**, **oōze**, **good**, **and**, **end**, **ll**, **on**, **up**, **arm**, **fare**. **ow** is sounded as in **owl**, **th** (*italicized*) as in **then**, **th** (*unitalicized*) as in **thin**, **g** as in **get**, **ch** as in **chop**, **er** as in **her**. The vowel **a**, when unaccented, at the end of a word, has a brief sound of **ä** (as in **arm**).

An unmarked vowel (*except a*), forming or ending a syllable, has its long or name sound.

The vowel **a** unmarked, forming or ending an *unaccented* syllable, commonly has a slight sound of **a** as in **arm**. But see 30, page xv.

An unmarked vowel, followed in the same syllable by any consonant except **r**, has its short sound. But **ar** is pronounced as in **arm**, **er** as in **her**, or as in **nor**, **ur** as in **fur**.



words of this class the sound of long *e* deprived of its vanishing element *e* (as heard in *pay*, *say*, &c., in which words the *y* may be considered as representing this vanishing element). This practice is better observed by Englishmen than by Americans. In the United States a somewhat lengthened form of *a* as in *and*, although not sanctioned by the Dictionaries, is more commonly given to words of this class, and is not, perhaps, to be condemned. The sound occurs only before *r*, and should be *closely blended* with the slight sound of *u*, as in *urn*, which is heard before *r* in the pronunciation of such words.

3. The compound long vowel sound, generally indicated by *u*, as in *use*, begins with the consonant *y* and ends with *oo*, — *yoo*.

This is the sound heard in the words *unit* (*yoo'-nit*), *cube* (*kyoo'b*), *mute* (*myoo't*), *educate* (*ed'yoo-kate*), &c. But when the compound vowel *u*, or its equivalent, in a monosyllable or an accented syllable, follows *t*, *d*, *l*, *n*, *s*, *th*, or *j* (commonly), the initial element is slighted so as to become a very brief and indistinct sound of *i* as in *ill*; as in *tune*, *duke*, *lunar*, *nude*, *suit*, *enthusiast*, *jewel*.

3. Cautions against some Common Errors in Pronunciation.

1. Do not pronounce *ing* like *in*; as *eve'nin* for *eve'ning*, *writ'in* for *writ'ing*.

Pronounce the following: Speak'ing, read'ing, talk'ing, walk'ing, stop'ing, smok'ing, suppos'ing, expect'ing, cel'ebrating.

2. Do not pronounce *ow* like *ur* or *uh*; as *hol'lur* or *hol'luh* for *hol'low*, *shad'ur* or *shad'uh* for *shad'ow*.

Pronounce the following: Bor'row, to-mor'row, nar'row, yel'low, fel'low, wid'ow, pil'low, mel'lowing, swallow'ing.

3. Do not pronounce *ed* like *id* or *ud*; as *unitt'id* or *unitt'ud* for *unitt'ed*, *provid'id* or *provid'ud* for *provid'ed*.

Pronounce the following: Rest'ed, resid'ed, decid'ed, regard'ed, exhib'ited, cel'ebrated, excit'ed, delight'ed, support'ed.

4. Do not pronounce *ess* like *iss*; as *good'niss* for *good'ness*, *bold'niss* for *bold'ness*.

Pronounce the following: Hard'ness, bad'ness, harm'less, care'less, clear'ness, ful'ness, seam'stress, host'ess, em'press.

5. Do not pronounce *el* like *il*, nor *et* like *it*, nor *est* like *ist*; as *crui'il* for *crui'el*, *bush'it* for *bush'et*, *for'ist* for *for'est*.

Pronounce the following: Fu'el, du'el, bush'el,

whale, whine, white, whim'per, whis'per, whip'ping, whit'tle.

11. Do not omit to give the sound of *r* after a vowel in the same syllable, as in *arm*, *form*, &c., not *ahn*, *faurum*, &c.

Pronounce the following: Dark, hark, start, chart, are, tar, remark', course, for, nor, door, floor, lord, hon'or, do'nor, short, support', report', pa'per, or'der, horse, purse, warm, alarm'ing, re- turn'ing, reform'ing.

12. Do not add the sound of *r* to a final vowel or diphthong; as *lawr* for *law*, *ide'ar* for *ide'a*.

Pronounce the following: saw, draw, paw, claw, pots'to, toms'to, com'ma, Em'ma.

13. Do not shorten the sound of long *o* in cer- tain words by leaving off its vanishing ele- ment *oo*.

Pronounce the following: Boat, bone, broke, choke, cloak, colt, comb, delt, hole, home, home'- ly, hope, jolt, load, on'ly, road, rogue, smoke, spoke, spok'en, stone, throat, toad, whole, wrote, yoke, bolster.

14. Do not omit the sound of *d* when preceded by *n*; as *stan* for *stand*, *frens* for *friends*.

Pronounce the following: Stands, bands, winds, winds, depends', defends', demands', blind'ness, grand'mother, grand'father, hand'ful.

rel, par'cel, hov'el, chap'el, quar'rel, sor'rél, pen'-
cil, chick'en, lin'en, sud'den, mit'ten, sat'in.

20. Do not sound *e* or *i* before *n* or *l* in those words in which it is properly silent; as *e'ven* for *ev'n*, *heav'en* for *heav'n*, *ba'sin* for *ba'sn*, *has'el* for *ha'sl*, *e'vil* for *e'vl*.

Pronounce the following: Ha'ven, sev'en, gold'-
en, o'pen, short'en, wood'en, wak'en, wid'en,
fro'zen.

21. After *r*, *ch*, or *sh* do not give the sound of long *u* when the simple sound of *oo* (long or short) should be heard; as *rule* for *rool*, *fruit*, for *froot*.

Pronounce the following: True, truth, grew,
chew, sure, sug'ar, tru'ly, crew, brute, bru'tal,
rude, through, cru'el, ru'by, ru'bicund.

22. Do not substitute the sound *oo* for that of long *u*; as *toon* for *tune*, *doo'ty* for *du'ty*.

Pronounce the following: Tube, duke, mute,
nude, mu'sic, Tues'day, du'bious, hute, blue, il-
lume', illude', in'stitute.

23. The vowel *a* when unaccented, at the end of a word has the sound of *ä* (as in *far*) somewhat shortened; as *com'ma* not *com'mā* nor *commā*.

Pronounce the following: Dra'ma, da'tā, pi'ca,