

**A PRONOUNCING  
SPELLING-BOOK OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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A Pronouncing Spelling-Book of the English Language by J. E. Worcester

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**J. E. WORCESTER**

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

*Joseph Emerson*  
By J. E. WORCESTER.

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## PREFACE.

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THERE are now so many spelling-books of different degrees of excellence, more or less in use in this country, that it may well be thought not desirable to have their number increased; but the compiler has been desired to prepare one suitable to be used in connection with his Dictionaries, conformed to them in orthography and pronunciation, and having the same system of notation in marking the sounds of the letters.

The design has been to give both the orthography and pronunciation which are in accordance with the practice of the best writers and speakers both in England and in the United States. With respect to orthography, the best American writers vary little from the established English usage. The most noted difference relates to a number of words ending in *or* or *our*; as, *favor, honor, or favour, honour*. In this country it is the prevailing practice to omit the *u*; though in England it is the general custom to retain it in a number of words, the most of which are dissyllables.

In the orthography and orthoepy of the English language there are many irregularities and difficulties; and in this book an attempt has been made so to classify the words as to present these irregularities and difficulties distinctly to the mind of the learner, that he may see and become familiarized with the irregularities, and enabled easily to overcome the difficulties.

The greatest difficulty in spelling English words arises from the different modes in which several of the elementary sounds of the language are represented by the letters of the alphabet; and from the use of the same letter, or the same combination of letters, to express different sounds. The long sound of *a*, for example, is represented in eight different ways; as in *fate, aid, bay, they, veil, break, gauge, gaol*. On the other hand, the letter *a* stands for five different sounds, as given in the Key; and, besides, it has the sound of short *o*, as in

was. The diphthong *ou* is employed to express eight varieties of sound ; as in *bought* (à), *bound* (ôù), *cough* (ô), *could* (ô), *course* (ô), *journal* (ü), *rough* (ü), *soup* (ô).

The occurrence of silent letters in many words, and the slight or obscure sounds which the vowels often have, when not accented, are likewise causes of embarrassment or difficulty in spelling.

The words for spelling are presented in numerous classes or divisions, in order to illustrate the various principles of orthography and pronunciation ; words of the simplest form, with respect to spelling and pronunciation, being first exhibited, followed, in regular order, by such as are less simple and more difficult.

According to the views of experienced teachers, frequent practice in writing is necessary in order to acquire a practical and thorough knowledge of orthography, and it is chiefly for this purpose that the Exercises are intended. The pupils, after spelling the words orally, may have the sentences dictated to them, and they may be required to write the words printed in italics. The judicious teacher, however, will vary the mode of using the Exercises as he may find most useful ; and in reviewing, he may dictate the sentences promiscuously, so as to avoid any leading hints in regard to the correct spelling of the italicized words. Other sentences may be framed by the teacher for such words in the columns as are not found in the Exercises. It is particularly desirable that this should be done with reference to the Rules for Spelling, for Syllabication, for Capital Letters, and for Italics, which admit of wide application. The Exercises will be found more or less useful in illustrating the meaning of the italicized words ; and it may be advantageous for the pupils to read them occasionally, in order to test their knowledge of pronunciation.

In the preparation of this book, the design has been to furnish a useful and convenient manual for teaching the *orthography* and *pronunciation* of the English language. It will be found to differ much from any other work of the kind which has heretofore been published ; but whether it possesses any peculiar advantages must be left to the judgment of those who take an interest in elementary education.



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# THE ALPHABET.

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ROMAN.		ITALIC.		OLD ENGLISH.		SCRIPT.	
Capital Letters.	Small Letters.	Capital Letters.	Small Letters.	Capital Letters.	Small Letters.	Capital Letters.	Small Letters.
A	a	A	a	A	a	A	a
B	b	B	b	B	b	B	b
C	c	C	c	C	c	C	c
D	d	D	d	D	d	D	d
E	e	E	e	E	e	E	e
F	f	F	f	F	f	F	f
G	g	G	g	G	g	G	g
H	h	H	h	H	h	H	h
I	i	I	i	I	i	I	i
J	j	J	j	J	j	J	j
K	k	K	k	K	k	K	k
L	l	L	l	L	l	L	l
M	m	M	m	M	m	M	m
N	n	N	n	N	n	N	n
O	o	O	o	O	o	O	o
P	p	P	p	P	p	P	p
Q	q	Q	q	Q	q	Q	q
R	r	R	r	R	r	R	r
S	s	S	s	S	s	S	s
T	t	T	t	T	t	T	t
U	u	U	u	U	u	U	u
V	v	V	v	V	v	V	v
W	w	W	w	W	w	W	w
X	x	X	x	X	x	X	x
Y	y	Y	y	Y	y	Y	y
Z	z	Z	z	Z	z	Z	z
&		&		&		&	

### DOUBLE LETTERS.

Æ æ    Œ œ    ff fi fl    ffi fii

# INTRODUCTION.

## LETTERS, SYLLABLES, AND WORDS.

ORTHOGRAPHY treats of letters and syllables, and of the proper mode of spelling words.

ORTHOEPY treats of the right pronunciation of words.

A LETTER is a character used in writing or printing to represent a sound of the human voice.

In the English alphabet there are twenty-six letters, written and printed in two forms, by which they are distinguished as capitals and as small letters. Letters are also printed in various kinds of types, of which the most common and important are the following:—

Roman, *Italic*, Old English, or Black Letter, and *Script*.

Letters are divided into two principal classes, — vowels and consonants.\*

A *vowel* is a letter which represents a free and uninterrupted sound of the human voice; or, as it is commonly defined, "it is a letter which can be perfectly sounded by itself." The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u*; also *w* at the end of a syllable, and *y* except at the beginning of a syllable.

A *diphthong* is the union of two vowels in one syllable; as, *oi* in *boil*.

A *proper diphthong* is one in which both of the vowels are sounded; as, *oi* in *voice*, *ou* in *sound*.

An *improper diphthong* is one in which only one of the vowels is sounded; as, *ea* in *beat*, *oa* in *boat*.

A *triphthong* is the union of three vowels in one syllable; as, *eau* in *beauty*, *iew* in *view*.

A *consonant* is a letter which represents a sound that is modified by some interruption during its passage through the organs of speech; or, as it is commonly defined, "it is a letter which cannot be sounded, or but imper-

\* By some writers, letters are also divided into *tonics* (having tone), *subtonics* (having a slight tone), and *atonic* (having no tone); or into *vocals*, *subvocals*, and *aspirates* (*whispered*). The former division is that of Dr. Rush. The *tonics* are *a* (as in *ale*, *an*, *art*, *axe*), *e* (as in *zel*, *end*, *err*), *i* (as in *isle*, *in*), *o* (as in *old*, *oase*), and *ou* (as in *our*); the *subtonics* are *b, d, g* (as in *give*), *l, m, n, r, v, w, y* (as in *ye*); *x* (as in *real*), *z* (as in *azure*), *th* (as in *this*), *ng* (as in *sing*); the *atonic* are *f, h, k, p, s, t, th* (as in *thine*), *sh* (as in *shall*), *wh* (as in *which*). The latter division, as stated by Dr. Bullions, is as follows: *vocals, a, e, i, o, u, ou*; *subvocals, b, d, g, j, l, m, n, ng, r, th* (as in *this*), *v, w, z* (as in *real*), *x* (as in *azure*); *aspirates, f, h, k, p, s, t, th* (as in *faith*), *sh, ch, wh*. The teacher who prefers the names used by these writers to those of vowels, semi-vowels, and mutes, can use them without incon-  
venience in connection with this work.