



Introduction to PLEA

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I giv heer a breek summary of the rules for PLEA.

For a compleet explanation and lesson guide, buy our guidebook, Ten Days to Improved Spelling. The book takes yu thru the subjects belo lesson by lesson, with exercises at the end ov each inviting u to

try riting acording to our rules. A dictionary is provided as an adissional guide.

Wen u lern to rite in PLEA u wil be using a regularized form of spelling, wich is not disruptiv for the reader and has the advantage of being free of much of the contradictory spelling mishmash that makes english so dificult to lern. We of the spelling reform movement ar at last doing wot has needed doing for the last 300+ years; we ar editing english spelling.

My particcular variety, PLEA, is similar in caracter & rules to virtually all proposals for modrat spelling reform. We eliminate hundreds of redundant letters, leftovers from erlier misspellings intentional and unintentional. We leav the consonants almoast untuchd. We reduce the number of ways a short vowl, or especialy a long vowl, can be ritten.

For example, dus english realy need 11 difrent ways of making the sound ee? We think not, espessialy wen sum of thees alternat ways ar used for difrent sounds than ee, so that the reader dusnt kno how a new word shud be pronounced.

Even wile english becums mor and mor the lingua franca of the world, we see an alarming increase in illitracy in the UK, the US [40 million US illitrats] and other english-speaking cuntrys wich shud be doing better. The gap between our spoken & our ritten language becums wider with the passage of time. Children, especialy boys, ar being discourraged by their struggles in scool to master the ritten language. They drop out, they dont try eny mor, they figure they can lern wot they want from their frends & TV. This trend- leading at times to a barbaric cultural vacuum - is dangerous. Children need to be readers. Making our spelling easier to read & rite is an obvius anser.

The chapters in my book, **Ten Days to Improved Spelling**, cover the following 10 topics. Rules are discussed in detail, followed by exercises to enable the learner to demonstrate what s/he has learned. Below, where PLEA differs from HS is shown in blue.

1. Consonants. Changes in consonant spellings include:

- Drop w when not needed. Bomb>bom, gnome>nome, half-haf, knock>nok, knowledge>nollege, match>mach, yacht>yot, receipt>receet, character>caracter. **But keep k in kno, knot & l in calm, to avoid confusion with /no,not,cam/. Wh-/ can optionally drop the h [when>wen].**
 - **Change soft gi- to j: jyant, jiraf.** Retain soft ge- & -dge. **Optionally drop u in guide>gide, disguise>disgize.**
 - **Endings in -tion [not -ction or -nction] are replaced by -ssion when the preceding vowel is short i: mission-ignission. When vowel is long, spell with -cion: nacion, secrecion, mocion, ocion, revolucion. -itious is replaced by -issius [delissius, fictissius, vissius]. Use -acious, -eeciis, -ocious when long [gracius, spacius, faceeciis, atrocious].**
 - **Doubles are not used unless needed; packing but pak; accurat but acumpany. ER can be optionally doubled to /err/ to assure short-e rather than /er/ sound; spell inherit or inherit.**
 - **F or ff replaces ph. Photograph>fotograf, stuff-stuffing. Of becomes ov.**
 - **Change che- as k sound to ke- [kemist, kelacion].**
 - **S is retained for plurals. S, z & x remain as in TS with some exceptions. Italian zz optionally respelled as -tz: pizza>peetza.**
 - =Busy, business becomes bizzy, biznes [no double s needed to distinguish from plural because final sounded e [anemone] becomes anemony-anemonys.**
 - =Change sc to ss in adolescence, cressent.**
 - =Optionally change cc to cs [not x] when needed: accept, accident.**
 - =Change voiced s before final magic e to z: phase>faze, rise>rize, those>thoze, rose>roze, confuse>confuze, to avoid confusion with unvoiced -s endings chase, concise, verbose, use [n.]**
- Spell dogs, careless, except, kyndness, receet, this, vision, was.**

2. Short Vowls. Those as in fad-fed-fit-fog-fun remain.

- Redundant vowels are dropped: friend>frend, measure>mesure, certain>certan. aesthetic>esthetic.
- Y as stressed short i is replaced by i: mystery>mistry.
- O sounded like short u is replaced by U: love>luv, done>dun, won>wun. **Exception: o before th remains: other.** **Exceptions: son, sun, one, once remain as in TS.**
- Some A's sounded like short o [esp. in UK] are replaced with o> watch>woch, quality>quolity, also, wollet, quorrel, quarter, wor. Others, carrying more of an ah sound, remain [alter, calm, fault] or change to au [baut, braud, tauk].

3. Doubling and Exceptions. In this chapter the doubling of consonants is discussed more extensively. The magic trailers are presented [-E, -E+, -AL, -ING, -O, -US, -Y, I+Vowl.] These cause the previous vowel to be pronounced long.

In order to make the previous vowel before a magic trailer SHORT, we double the consonant after the vowel: but-butter.

- Doubling is not needed to show previous short E. Single e must always be either short or schwa; if it were long & stressed it would be written ee or ea. Spell credit, metal, any, spelling, fello, jelly, any, many, register.
- Do not double J, Q or X [project], or before -ic, -it, -ogy, or before 2 vowels [idiot, video]

4. Omitting Redundant Letters. Further examples of omitted letters: [attempt, basically, before, cause, choose, collide, discuss, drop, except, finally, kitchen, paid, **pleas**, reckless, though, through, trained, **vissius**] with explanations. Treatment of though-though, tough-tuff, cough-coff, through-thru. Occasional change of a vowel or consonant as an exception [thought>thaut, **broad>braud**, **accident>acsident**, crescent>cressent, **panel>panal** match existing patterns in other words.

As a general rule doublings are considered surplus except if they are followed by a magic trailer -E, -E+, -AL, -ING, -LE, -O, -US, -Y. [See Rule 3]. Words in blue show difference between PLEA & IHS

5. Long & Peripheral Vowels. Magic e words [make, mike, mope, mute etc.] are not changed. Some other words are changed to match these; however ea, ai & oa spellings remain as in TS. Old spellings of long vowels can be changed to ee, ea, ai or oa. Before 2 consonants long vowels are written as ai [faint], ee or ea [preest, beast] or oa [moast, poast]. Letter U & its sounds are given special instructions; use of u, ue, eu, oo, iu.

Perifrals [ou, ow, au, oi, oy, shwee i] ar discussd, as ar ie & ei, with rules givven.

Y replaces long i befor 2 consonants [chyl d], & replaces ie in monosillables [lie>ly].

6. Shwa [unstressed syllables]; Rules for Stress. The dominant aCa [short stressed a plus consonant+a] pattern, as in salary, replaces aCe to avoid magic e efect [panel>panal, planet>planat] & to avoid dubbling.

Moast shwas remain as in TS. i is the best shwa for most purposes, but leav e in the preefixes be-, re-, de-. Final shwee sound is expressd by y or i: committee>comitty, jubilee>jubily. Haf-stressed ee can remain: colleeg.

Default stress falls on first sillable in 2-3-sillable words exept beginning with be-, com-, de-, ex-, in-, re-, sub-, un-, ware it may be on the second. Further stress rules ar givven cuvvering particular situations & longer words. Lerner ar advised to lissen to spoken english to pik up stress patterns.

7. er, ur, or, ar, ir Words.__Thees call for spessial treatment. In general they remain speld as in TS, but a few changes ar made, wich ar explaind in the book

8. Memory Words, Homofones, Meaning. To leav sum optional ways of spelling a sound, such as ee-ea, means that a speller may choos to represent difrent meanings with difrent spellings of the same-sounding word. I encurrage a certan amount of this, on the grounds that ware context must be invoked to determin meaning, the brain must use an extra action beyond meer recognition by sound. This is extra work. It's easier if each meaning has its own spelling. I agree to this extent with the folloers of hole-word educational theory. But the alternat spellings shud be regular, rule-based, consistent.

9. Varius Endings; Foren Words. Review of -acion. ue ending wen UK-US differ. Open vowl endings ar discussd & rules givven: ay, a, ai, é, i [shwee], o, oe, oo, ue, u, y. French words containing ch or ending in -et ar anglicized: ballet>balay, chalet>shalay, gauche>goash. Other foren borroings can be left as is or anglicized. It wud be desirable to anglicize italian pizza to peetza to avoid making zz hav 2 pronunciations. And bolony or boloni is better than baloney. Changes shud be made with sum forthaut. Suggestions for future steps to be taken.

10. Riting in PLEA; Sentences. Thees ar furnishd in the book for the student to practice with. A dictionary is also provided.

