

# TRADITIONAL SPELLING REVISED

## FULL GUIDANCE

Traditional Spelling Revised (TSR) is a revised English spelling scheme devised as an alternative to the highly irregular traditional English Spelling system (TR). TSR is a relatively conservative scheme. It seeks to identify the underlying rules of TS but to apply them more consistently, thereby reducing the number of irregularities that have to be memorised. It makes it possible to predict pronunciation from spelling, if not always the reverse. Words are only respelled when they cannot be brought within the rules.

TSR was approved by the International English Spelling Congress (IESC) in March 2021 as the preferred alternative to TS. The English Spelling Society, which sponsored the Congress, is affording TSR a degree of support and publicity while not closing down the debate on other alternatives. This document is a comprehensive guide to the rules and conventions of TSR. During the current review period (5 years), it is unlikely that any major changes will be made. However, on the basis of comments received, it is possible that there may be some minor modifications during that period. If so, a revised guide will be published containing details of any changes made.

## SUMMARY

### What TSR retains

- Most of the letters and letter combinations (graphemes) found in TS are used to indicate the same sounds (phonemes) as before<sup>1</sup>.
- No new accents or special letters are introduced – the apostrophe, and hyphen / diacritics are occasionally used to assist predicting the pronunciation of some vowel combinations.
- TS's rules for indicating vowel length are largely retained – the so-called Magic E and Doubling Rules.
- Where in TS a letter or letters can represent more than one sound, the TS rules for predicting pronunciation are generally retained and codified.
- No respelling is required of Proper Names – at least not during the review period.
- Other than the above, a small number of common irregularly spelled words are left unchanged.
- Also retained from TS are some suffixes and other sub-groups – familiar word combinations not totally compliant with the main rules of TSR, but which can usually be relied on to predict particular sounds.

### What TSR changes

Words are respelled when TS misapplies the underlying rules or contains ambiguity. Main categories below:

- Misapplication of the Doubling Rule.
- Misapplication of the rules for determining how the letter <s> is pronounced.
- Certain ambiguous letter combinations which in TS can represent more than one sound – TSR introduces consistency.
- Removal of redundant letters.
- Two new letter combinations are introduced: <aa> and <uu>.

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<sup>1</sup> The symbol < > is used to indicate graphemes, the symbol / / to represent phonemes.

## THE DETAIL

### A. VOWEL SOUNDS

Phoneme SAMPA <sup>2</sup>	Phoneme IPA	Graphemes < >	Remarks
{	æ	pan	
e	e	pen	
I	I	pin	
Q A:	ɒ a:	pot	But see G below.
V	ʌ	pun	
eI	eɪ	face, laid, stay, neigh, they	
i:	i:	scene, feed, lead	In TSR <ie> never represents this sound; <believe> is respelled <beleev>.
aI	aɪ	side, die, why, dye, buy, sigh	
@U	əʊ	bone, banjo, floe, moan	In TSR <ow> is never used for this sound; e.g. <low> is respelled <lo>.
ju:	ju:	tune, due, unit, few, Europe	<eu> for words of Greek origin only.
U	ʊ	st <u>u</u> ud, pu <u>u</u> ding	As there is no distinctive grapheme in TS for this phoneme, TSR introduces a new one - <uu>.
OI	ɔɪ	bo <u>i</u> l, bo <u>y</u> , dep <u>o</u> ying	<oi> is default; <oy> usually at end of words or before a vowel.
u:	u:	fo <u>o</u> d	
aU	aʊ	pr <u>o</u> ud, n <u>o</u> w, g <u>o</u> wn, bo <u>u</u> gh	<ou> is default; <ow> at end of words, before vowel or before <n>; <ough> is rare and only represents /aʊ/; <cough> is respelled <coff>.
e@ or e <sup>r</sup>	eə or e <sup>r</sup>	st <u>a</u> ir, b <u>a</u> re	In TSR <ear> no longer represents this phoneme; <bear> is respelled <bair>.
A: or A <sup>r</sup> :	a: or a <sup>r</sup>	st <u>a</u> r, f <u>a</u> r	Double the <r> to open the vowel: <harry>.
A: (non-rhotic)	a:	fa <u>a</u> ther, p <u>a</u> lm	<aa> is a new grapheme but used rarely.
O <sup>r</sup>	ɔ: <sup>r</sup>	f <u>o</u> r	Double the <r> to open the vowel: <horrid>.
O: (non-rhotic)	ɔ:	f <u>ra</u> ud, l <u>a</u> w, l <u>a</u> wyer, c <u>a</u> ll, <u>a</u> lways, d <u>a</u> ughter, <u>o</u> ught	<au> is default; <aw> usually at end of word, before vowel or <-yer>’ <al> only at beginning of words and where implying totality; exceptions: words of Arabic origin: <algebra>.
3: or 3 <sup>r</sup> :	3: or 3 <sup>r</sup> :	h <u>e</u> r, f <u>i</u> r, f <u>u</u> r	Double the <r> to open the vowel: <herring>, <stirrup>, <hurry>.
i	i	f <u>a</u> iry, f <u>a</u> iries	<-y> becomes <ies> for plurals.
@	ə	<u>a</u> fraid, d <u>e</u> fence, <u>i</u> nvisible, <u>u</u> nsound	Schwa <sup>3</sup>

*Where two symbols are shown in the first two columns, the one on the left represents British and the one on the right American / Canadian pronunciation.*

<sup>2</sup> SAMPA (Speech Assessment Methods Phonetic Alphabet) is a machine-readable phonetic alphabet, which can represent all the English sounds of the IPA but on an ordinary keyboard. SAMPA rather than IPA characters are used for the most part in this guide.

<sup>3</sup> The indeterminate sound in many unaccented syllables. TSR usually retains the graphemes used in TS for these phonemes.

## B. CONSONANT SOUNDS

Phoneme SAMPA	Phoneme IPA	Graphemes < >	Remarks
b	b	<u>b</u> un	as in TS
d	d	<u>d</u> og	“
g	g	<u>g</u> un	“
h	h	<u>h</u> at	“
l	l	<u>l</u> ink	“
m	m	<u>m</u> an	“
n	n	<u>n</u> ot	“
p	p	<u>p</u> en	“
r	r	<u>r</u> un	“
t	t	<u>t</u> ip	“
v	v	<u>v</u> an	“
w	w	<u>w</u> ine	“
k	k	<u>k</u> id, <u>c</u> ream, <u>f</u> lick, <u>ch</u> emistry	/k/ is default; <c> represents /k/ other than before /e/, /I/, /i:/, /aI/ where it represents /s/ :- <cent>, <city>, <cede>, <cyber> etc. <ch> in words of Greek origin only.
f	f	<u>f</u> rog, <u>ph</u> one	<ph> in words of Greek origin only.
dʒ	dʒ	<u>j</u> am, <u>g</u> in	<j> is default; <g> when before /e/, /I/, /i:/, /aI/; where this rule is broken, TSR usually adds a <u>: <guide>.
tʃ	tʃ	<u>ch</u> urch, <u>sw</u> itch	<tch> mainly at end of words.
s	s	<u>s</u> un, <u>hiss</u> , <u>c</u> ity	<s> represents /s/ at beginning of words, before or after /k/, /f/, /p/, /t/: <cliffs>, <crisp>; otherwise <s> usually represents /z/. See below C3 below.
T	θ	<u>th</u> ing	<th> is default for /T/ - for /D/ see C4 below.
D	ð	<u>bathe</u> , <u>othe</u> r, <u>this</u>	<th> represents /D/ when stressed and before <e>; also in certain common sign words - See C4 below.
S	ʃ	<u>sh</u> ed	See also D3 below.
z	z	<u>z</u> ebra, <u>jazz</u> , <u>lens</u>	For when <s> represents /z/ see C3 below
j	j	<u>y</u> et, <u>basti</u> on	See also Annex B
kw	kw	<u>q</u> ueen	<qu> is the usual way of representing this sound.
ks	ks	<u>x</u> terminate	But <x> = /gz/ when followed by a stressed vowel – e.g. exam.
Z	ʒ	<u>pleas</u> ure, <u>les</u> ion	See D3 below.

## C. THE PRINCIPAL RULES OF TSR

### 1. The Magic E and Doubling Rules - Summary

- *Magic e* – adding the silent letter <e> after the consonant in single syllable words lengthens the preceding vowel: pan / pane, set / scene, snip / snipe, rot / rote, fun / fume.
- *Doubling Rule* – in words of more than one syllable, and where there is a **stressed** vowel followed by a single consonant + another vowel, the preceding vowel is usually lengthened: sad / sadist, set / scenic, bit / biter, fun / fuming.

To reverse this rule, double the consonant: fat / fate / fatter, pet / Pete / petting, bit / bite / bitter, rot / rote / rotten.

### 2. The Magic E and Doubling Rules - Variations - The Letter <i>

The main variation on the Doubling Rule is that the letter <i> behaves differently from other vowels. In the combination: **stressed <i> + consonant + <i>** the stressed vowel is usually NOT lengthened. Thus <lipid>, <licit>, <limit>. **BUT** where the second <i> is part of the suffix <ing>, the first <i> is usually long as in <wining>, <dining>, <pining>. In these cases, double the consonant to retain the first vowel short: <beginning>, <pinning>, <winning>.

### 3. The Letter <s>

The letter <s> represents the sound /s/ as in <sound>; also /z/ as in <please>. (The letter <z> represents /z/ exclusively.)

The following rules concerning <s> are based on TS formulae. <s> represents /s/ :

- at the beginning of words (snake);
- before or after the sounds /k/, /f/, /p/, /t/: <clicks, cliffs, clips, its>;
- in the prefixes <dis> and <mis>: <dismay>, <misrule>;
- after the prefixes <con>: <consent> and <per>: <persistent>;
- when the word is in two halves each representing a separate word: <homesick>, <ransack>.

Where the above rules do not apply, <s> may be doubled to retain the /s/ sound: <miss, mass, missing>. Some prefixes may be hyphenated to ensure predictability of the /s/sound: <re-send>, <co-signatory>. Where a word cannot be fitted into this pattern, a different respelling is sometimes required: <disease>, <mizzerable>.

### 4. Representation of the sounds /T/ and /D/ (as in <thin> and <with>)

In TS, both sounds are represented by the combination <th>. TSR continues to use this single grapheme for both phonemes. However, the following rules help to predict of the sound represented.

- by default <th> represents the sound /T/ as in <thin, thanks, thimble>;
- <th> represents /D/ in single syllable words before the vowel <e>: <lathe>, <bathe>, <seethe>, <loathe>; also in words containing the combination <other> - <brother>.

- <th> also represents /D in certain irregular words, largely of single syllables, which are also demonstrative or interrogative in purpose; see D. 2(vii) below.

## 5. The Letter <y>

The letter <y> can represent three sounds. These are the fairly reliable TSR rules based on TS:

- the sound /j/ at the beginning of words: <yet>; between vowels: <beyond>; before <yer>: <lawyer>;
- the sound /aɪ/ - other than at the beginning of a word and stressed: <why>, <dying>;
- the sound /i/ at the end of a word unstressed: <fairy>, <pretty>. NB plurals of such nouns are respelled <ies> as in <fairies>;
- where <y> represents /ɪ/ in TS, TSR respells it as <i> to avoid ambiguity eg distopic, mistery, mithology.

## 6. The letter combinations <er>, <ir> and <ur> (short or long)

- <ar> - an added final <e> usually turns the sound from /Aː/ as in <bar> to the sound /e@/, as in <bare, stare, care> etc.; doubling the <r> followed by <e> or <ing> gives /Aː/ thus <barring> (the way) but <baring> (one's teeth);
- <er> generally obeys the Magic E Rule: <mere, here, serious>; but <ergonomic>;
- <ir> generally obeys the Magic E Rule: <dire, ire, mire, tire; firing, wiry>; but <mirth>;
- <or> - addition of other syllables generally does not lengthen the <o> as in <boring>; TSR usually drops the <e> as redundant where it is the last letter: <snor>;
- <ur> - generally obeys the Magic E rule: <cure, endure, lure, during> etc.

Note: TS is rather confused when it comes to doubling the above letter combinations at the beginning of a word. The general TS rule is to double only in cases when the relevant vowel sound is short and stressed: <arrogant>, <errant>, but not where unstressed: <around>, <erect>, <orate>, <irascible>. However, there are plenty of TS exceptions: <arrest>, <erroneous>, <irreverent>. TSRs current solution is to require doubling of the consonant only when the syllable comes at the beginning of a word, is short and stressed. This requires some respellings: <arest>, <eroneous>, <ireverent>. Doubling is, however, permitted in words of more than two syllables where the first syllable bears a secondary stress : <irritation>.

## 7. The letter <u>

The letter <u> generally obeys the Magic E rule but additionally:

- it is almost invariably long, representing /ju:/, at the beginning of a word :<unite>; exceptions: words beginning in <un> with a negative meaning:<uninspiring> or in <up>:<upend>, or when preceding two consonants: <ugly>;
- it is usually long when stressed and preceding another vowel: <fuel>, <dual>;
- it is usually long when unstressed following a vowel and consonant(s): <monument>, <natural>.

## 8. The sound /@U/ (no longer represented by <ow>)

This sound can be represented in TS by a number of graphemes as in <bone>, <banjo>, <floe>, <moan>. TS also uses the digraph <ow> as in <low>, <slow> etc. But in TS <ow> can also represent the sound in <cow>, <town> etc. To avoid confusion, TSR does not use this grapheme for the sound /@U/. Where such cases arise in TS, in single syllable words or at the end of words, TSR usually substitutes <o>; thus <flo> (flow), <slo> (slow), or <oe> in case of plurals or past tense, <floes>, <sloed>. In other

cases, <oa> is used where the sound is /@U/ and the word has to be respelled for other reasons: <soal> (<soul> in TS).

## 9. Other Miscellaneous Rules

- i doubling a consonant at the end of a word is normal with words ending in <f>, and <l>: stuff, fill, although this does not in any way affect the pronunciation ;
- ii <-ed> is normally added at the end of a word to indicate passive mood or past tense: <sifted>, <gifted>.
- iii some vowel combinations can represent more than one sound in TSR unless otherwise distinguished, such as <ea>, <ie>; see ANNEX A for how TSR deals with these cases;
- iv <sc> follows the rules for the pronunciation of <c>: <scam, scene, scythe> etc. ;
- v <sch> represents /sk/ and rarely /S/: <school>; exceptions: German origin words such as *schmaltz*, but these can be treated as loan words and italicised;
- vi schwa - TSR generally retains the TS spelling for unaccented syllables, except where the TS combination is itself irregular; thus: <about>, <ensnare>, <intelligent>, <common>, <upon> . BUT <forren> instead of <foreign>; the key to decisions here is to pronounce the word slowly at dictation speed; if the sound of the unaccented syllable is not what the letters predict, then respelling is probably necessary.

## D. IRREGULAR SPELLINGS RETAINED FROM TS

### 1. Proper Nouns (eg John, London, Belize)

No changes are required during the review period. But it is open for people and authorities to respell their own and organisations' names now if they wish, e.g. <Jon, Lundon, Beleez > etc.

### 2. Other Common Irregular words

The following very common words also retain their original spelling:

- i personal pronouns and adjectives: <i, you<sup>4</sup>, he, she, we, me, us, they, your, their(s), them>
- ii parts of the verbs to be and to have: <are, was, were, have, having>
- iii numbers: <(n)one, (once), two, four, seven, eleven, twelve, fourteen, seventeen>
- iv days of the week: <Monday, Wednesday, Saturday>
- v months of the year: <January, February, April, July>
- vi seasons: <autumn>
- vii demonstrative adjectives and adverbs: <than, that, then, thence, there, these, this, those, thus>
- viii interrogative pronouns: <what, where, who, whose>
- ix miscellaneous: <the, of, to(day), any(one), (n)either, nothing, some, woman, women, yes>.

*NB in vii the irregularity is principally due to <th> representing /D/ rather than /T/ and in two cases to the fact that the final <s> represents /s/ rather than /z/:<this> and <thus>.*

### 3. Common Suffixes

A number of word endings which do not comply fully with the normal rules of TS but can usually be relied on to represent particular sounds are retained in their original spelling.

*Those involving the /S/ sound*

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<sup>4</sup> The second person singular or plural may also be represented in TSR by a capital <U> -'If U Please.'

-tion- (nation, depletion, ignition, lotion, solution)  
 -ssion (passion, confession, mission)  
 -cial (facial, special, official)  
 -cious (spacious, specious, meretricious, atrocious)  
 -cean / -cian (ocean, musician)

*Those involving the /Z/ sound*

-sion (invasion, adhesion, elision, explosion, confusion)  
 -sure (embrasure, pleasure, composure)

The Magic E and Doubling Rules apply generally to the above suffixes. Thus <ignition> unlike the other examples does not lengthen the first <i>. The suffix <-ssion> does not lengthen the preceding vowel because of the double <ss>. The combinations <-cial> and <-sure> are mainly compliant, but the letter <e> in these combinations (like <i>) usually has to be treated as an exception in not lengthening the preceding vowel: <special> <plesure>.

<-le>

The combination: vowel + consonant + <le> at the end of a word produces the sound /@l/ as in <-able>, <ible>, <ple> and many more. The Magic E and doubling rules normally apply as if the preceding consonant and <l> were a single letter. Thus: <apple> (vowel short); <able> (vowel long).

#### 4. Sub-groups

There are a number of other letter combinations which do not strictly follow the rules of TSR but can usually be relied on to represent particular sounds.

i	The <-alk> combination at the end of words such as <balk, calk, stalk, talk, walk>.
ii	The <-aste> combination at the end of words such as <baste, haste, paste, taste, waste>.
iii	The <-ign> combination at the end of words and stressed as in <sign, assign, malign> – but not at the beginning of words: igneous, signet.
iv	The <-ind> combination in single syllable words such as <bind, find, kind, mind, rind, wind (verb)>. (TS <wind> (noun) respelled <wind>).
v	The <old> combination at the end of words such as <old, bold, cold, fold, sold, told, wold> - plus combinations such as <folder>.
vi	The <-olk> combination in <folk> and <yolk>.
vii	The <-ould> combination in <could>, <should>, & <would>. The sound /U/ in all other words is represented by <uu>: st <u>u</u> d -TS stood.
viii	The <-other> group in words such as other, brother, mother, another, smother. Stress is on the <o> and must be followed by <-ther>. Requires <bother> to be respelled <bother>.
ix	The <war->combination at the beginning of words such as <war, ward, warn, warp, warble, warden, wart>.
x	The <wor->combination at the beginning of words: < word, work, worship>, exception: <worn>.

#### 5. Loan Words

Foreign words whose pronunciation and original spelling are retained in TS are italicised in TSR to indicate that different spelling conventions apply. Examples: *chaise longue*, *chef*, *Lieder*, *junta*, *scherzo*.

## E. SPELLINGS THAT TSR CHANGES

The general rule is whether the TS spelling could leave any doubt as to the pronunciation. If it could not, then the spelling is not normally changed. Subject to that overriding principle:

- TS combinations that are ambiguous are reformed. Thus, in TSR <ie> can only represent the sounds in <die> and <fairies> and not in <believe>; <ow> can only represent the sound in <town> and not in <tow>. Such TS instances are respelled. See C8 above.
- TSR removes letters that are redundant and whose retention could lead to confusion of pronunciation: <wrong>, <gnash>, <hour>.
- Final <e> is generally omitted when the preceding vowel is short: <dove> becomes <duv>, <live> (verb int.) becomes <liv>.
- TSR corrects instances where the doubling rule has been misapplied by TS – <committtee>, <aceommodate>.
- TSR respells words such as <dystopia> as <distopia> to avoid confusion of pronunciation.

Most respellings arise from the consistent application of the Doubling Rule.

## F. HOMONYMS

As some common sign words (with irregular spelling) are retained and as TSR allows some phonemes to be represented by more than one grapheme, this usually permits homonyms with different spellings but the same sound to be retained from TS. (e.g. stare / stair, sight / site, none / nun). Where respellings which involve the removal of a redundant letter might result in confusion of meaning, certain distinguishing devices are sometimes used by TSR. Thus, one may insert an apostrophe to indicate the letter omitted e.g. 'our (hour) - our (possessive adjective). Doubling or additional letters may also be used, eg <sun> (celestial object) <sunn> (male child); <bloo> (colour), <blooh> (past tense of <blow>).

## G. INTERPRETATION OF TSR IN DIFFERENT DIALECTS

TSR seeks to provide common graphemes for all the main phonemes of spoken English in a manner that will permit speakers of different dialects to interpret the graphemes according to their own traditions.

Many words are pronounced differently in different dialects, in particular as between American/ Canadian and British / other Commonwealth. However, most of these differences are relatively slight and insufficient to warrant separate spellings. This is because at the moment the speakers of different dialects can usually interpret common TS graphemes according to their own traditions. -

The following strategy is followed.

**Proper Nouns** - For the moment, any word which starts with a capital letter (other than marking the start of a sentence) can be respelled at a later stage. The decision as to respelling is left to the individual(s) / organisation concerned.

**Current Differences between American and British spellings** - TSR prefers American over British spelling in the following cases: <-or> over <-our> (labor), <-ize> over <-ise> (theorize) and <-yze> over <-yze>, (analyze), <-er> over <-re> (center), <-og> over <-ogue> (catalogue). BUT in some cases, both American and British spellings will be changed as a result of TSR's rules. This is particularly the case with doubling. Thus: <parralel> (parallel), <cullor> (color).

**Stress** - TSR makes no special provision for stress. Accordingly, when the only difference between American / Canadian and British or other pronunciations is in the syllable to be stressed, TSR does not



mark this divergence. Generally, in such cases, TS spelling is preserved. People will pronounce the word with the stress that is familiar to them: <adult>, <thanksgiving>.

**Loan words** - As set out above, where the original (foreign) spelling of a loan word is frequently retained, TSR's approach is not to change this but to italicise it showing that TSR conventions do not apply. It will remain open to English speakers to interpret these spellings in accordance with their own traditions: *chargé d'affaires*, *chaise longue* etc.

**Schwa** (unstressed syllables) - A large number of divergent pronunciations as between British and American usage actually arise from the fact that the unstressed syllable is pronounced only slightly differently, eg <surplus>, where British tend to treat the second syllable as schwa /@/ and Americans pronounce the unstressed syllable as /V/. In such cases, TSR sees no need to change the TS spelling, leaving different dialects to retain their slightly different pronunciations.

### **Predictable variance**

Common lists of English phonemes show a number of graphemes whose different interpretation as between British and American usage is fairly standard and therefore predictable. They include:

<lot>, <odd>, <wash - American / Canadian: /A:/ - British / other Commonwealth: /Q/.

TSR maintains the common grapheme <o> for these sounds. The elision of the two sounds is not always complete in American / Canadian pronunciation. Also, interpretation based on one dialect only for such an important grapheme would have difficulty in gaining acceptance throughout the ESW.

<goat>, <show>, <no> British: /@U/ American: /oU/

The difference in pronunciation as between British and American is too slight to warrant different graphemes: existing formulae (minus <ow>) are used.

<square>, < fair>, <various>, <nurse>, <stir>, <near>, <here>.

These are examples of rhotic divergence. Some English speakers suppress the /r/ in words such as <farm> or <heather>; most do not (eg Scottish, West Country (UK), American). TSR keeps the <r> in the knowledge that rhotic and non-rhotic speakers will interpret the grapheme in accordance with their own traditions.

### **The 'bath' words**

This covers combinations of <a> with <-sc>, <-sp>, <-nt>, <-ft>, <-ns>, <-st>; also sometimes <aff> and <ass>. UK 'Received Pronunciation' pronounces the <a> in these circumstances as /A:/. Other accents, including American /Canadian and some British ones, pronounce the <a> as /{/ - thus <clasp, flask, aunt, daft, chance, bath, and staff> etc. TSR uses <a> in these instances in the knowledge that RP speakers will continue to interpret <a> as /A:/ and most others as /{/. Generally TS <a> on its own is treated by TSR as representing /{/. A useful mnemonic to identify such words: 'The daft rascal passed a raspberry at his aunt as he pranced in the staff bath.'

### **Unpredictable variance - 'yod' dropping**

This refers to words such as <duty>, <tune> etc. American /Canadian pronunciation of the <u> in some of these cases comes out as /u:/. Other traditions, including British, insert a /j/ before /u:/. TSR does not allocate different spellings to these words as this would greatly increase the number of variants - there are about 50 such words in frequent usage not including compounds. Equally, requiring non-Americans to adopt a spelling based on a pronunciation so distinctively different from their own might hinder acceptance of the scheme outside the USA.

TSR's solution is to insert an apostrophe after <u> in these instances. This will alert American and Canadian speakers to pronounce the vowel as /u:/. and others to pronounce it as /ju:/. Thus <du'ty> (duty), <su't> (sue), and <tu'n> (tune) etc.

### ***Unpredictable variance - Miscellaneous***

There remain some words where American and other pronunciations differ in an unpredictable manner. TSR looks at these on an individual basis. It usually adopts the most common pronunciation in the English-Speaking World. However, it also avoids changing the TS spelling wherever possible. Example: <exit>. The pronunciation varies both sides of the Atlantic between /eksIt/ and /egzIt/. TSR keeps the TS spelling. People will carry on pronouncing it as they are accustomed.

TSR does, however, permit a few divergent spellings as between American / Canadian and other usages for a small number of words where the difference in pronunciation each side of the Atlantic is too great permit a common grapheme. TSR provides the following alternatives (American / Canadian - British / other Commonwealth): <tomato>, <tomaato>, <vase>/ <vaaz> (or *vase*), <booy> / <b'oy>. <(N)either> retains its original spelling: people will pronounce it differently, depending on their dialect and preference.

It is hoped that the above strategy will make it possible for common spellings to apply in most cases to words that are pronounced differently in various parts of the English-Speaking World.

## **H. CONCLUSION**

TSR is an attempt at conservative reform. If it produced an English orthography as phonemic as French, then in the author's opinion that would be a modest but significant step forward, which would have positive benefits in terms of faster access to literacy. It would at least greatly assist the child or student to predict the pronunciation from the spelling, and to reduce seriously the number of irregular words that have to be memorised. Change is kept to a minimum in the interests of overcoming the instinctive opposition throughout the world's languages to any alteration to existing spelling. TSR does not look very different in print from TS, but the changes that it makes are all designed to create greater predictability.

TSR respells upwards of a quarter from lists of the most common words. However, the proportion frequently falls to between 15-20% in sample texts.

Inevitably the current version of TSR will attract comments and suggestions. This guide is not set in tablets of stone.

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## Interpretation of certain digraphs

A few letter combinations normally represent a single sound in TSR, but can also represent two separate sounds. The following list shows how such different pronunciation can be predicted.

<ea> – a grapheme in TSR representing the sound /i:/ as in <bead>. When there are two separate sounds, a hyphen or diæresis is inserted <cre-ate>.

<eo> represents two separate sounds. But to predict pronunciation, words such as <theory> are respelled <the-ory>. Otherwise, <eo> represents the sound in <pantheon>.

<ia> represents two separate sounds. But to predict pronunciation, words such as <liar> are respelled <lyar. Otherwise, <ia> represents the /j/ sound in <defoliate.>

<ie> - a grapheme in TSR representing the sounds /aI/ as in <die> or /i/ as in fairies. When there are two separate sounds, insert a hyphen or diæresis : <leni-ent>.

<io> represents two separate sounds. But to predict pronunciation, words such as < lion> are respelled <lyon>. Otherwise,, <i> represents the /j/ sound in <bastion>

<oing> - is always interpreted as /@UIN/ - as in <going>. So no need for hyphen or diæresis.

<iu> always represents two separate sounds. But to predict pronunciation, words such as <triumph> are respelled <tryumph>.

## Sample Transcriptions

### Extracts from favourites from the English-Speaking World

TS In a cavern, in a canyon, excavating for a mine, lived a miner, forty-niner, and his daughter Clementine. (US)

TSR In a cavern in a canyon, excavating for a mine, livved a miner, forty-niner and his daughter Clementine.

TS A North Country maid down to London had strayed, although with her nature it did not agree.(UK)

TSR A north cuntry maid down to London had strayed, altho with her nature it did not agree.

TS With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free! (Canada)

TSR With gloing h'arts we see thee rise, the Troo North strong and free!

TS Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a coolibah tree. (Australia)

TSR Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a *coolabah* tree.

TS There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet, as that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet. (Ireland)

TSR There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet, as that vale in whose buusom the bright wauters meet.

TS I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member. (Groucho Marks)

TSR I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.

TS No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar. (Abraham Lincoln)

TSR No man has a guud enuf memmory to be a successful lyar.

### Gettysburg Address

Fourscore and seven years ago our faathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in libberty and deddicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a grait civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so deddicated, can long endure. We are met on a grait battle-feeld in that war. We have cum to deddicate a portion of that feeld, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might liv. It is altogether fitting and propper that we should do this, but in a larger senss we cannot deddicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallo this ground. The brave men, living and ded, who struggled here, have consecrated it far abuv our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can nevver forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be deddicated to the grait task remaining befor us that from these onored ded we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last fuul mesure of devotion - that we here highly resolv that these ded shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the peepel, for the peepel, shall not perrish from the erth.

## Some Common Words

(words respelled in green)

TS	TSR
a	a
actually	actualy
add	add
ago	ago
American	American
animal	annimal
another	another
any	any
apply	aply
around	around
arrive	arive
artist	artist
as	as
baby	baby
bass	baiss
because	becoz
believe	beleev
better	better
bill	bill
billion	billion
blood	bluud
blue	bloo
build	bild
call	call
campaign	campain
can	can
career	career
chair	chair
change	chainge
check	check
choose	choose
church	church
claim	claim
clearly	clearly
close (v)	close (v)
common	common

community	comunity
company	cumpany
control	controal
cover	cuvver
create	cre-ate
current	current
deal	deal
decide	decide
describe	describe
design	design
develop	devellop
development	devellopment
difference	difference
difficult	difficult
draw	draw
education	education
else	elss
employee	employee
evening	evening
ever	evver
exactly	exactly
experience	expeeri-ence
explain	explain
far	far
few	few
figure	figgur
fine	fine
firm	firm
focus	focus
foot	fuut
for	for
force	force
form	form
government	gubernment
green	green
guess	guess

guy	guy
happen	happen
hard	hard
head	hed
health	helth
heart	h'art
help	help
herself	herself
high	high
his	his
home	home
hour	'our
howevver	howevver
include	inclood
individual	individidual
interest	interest
international	internashonal
into	into
involve	involv
itself	itself
kid	kid
kill	kill
large	large
lay	lay
learn	lern
letter	letter
light	light
likely	likely
line	line
little	little
look	luuk
loss	loss
low	lo
maintain	maintain
major	major
make	make
management	mannagement
matter	matter
me	me
meet	meet

meeting	meeting
minute	minnit
model	moddel
moment	moment
money	munny
month	munth
more	mor
music	music
nation	nation
nature	nature
necessary	nessessary
need	need
network	network
night	night
no	no
occur	ocur
off	off
ok	ok
on	on
once	once
only	oonly
onto	onto
operation	operation
order	order
others	others
out	out
page	page
particularly	particcularly
past	past
patient	patient
movie	moovee
per	per
period	peeriod
personal	personal
place	place
point	point
<i>police</i>	<i>police</i>
policy	pollicy
position	position



practice	practice
prove	proof
public	public
quality	quollity
question	question
race	race
realise	re-alise
recognise	reccognise
record(n)	reccord(n)
report	report
rest	rest
return	return
right	right
same	same
school	school
seat	seat
section	section
security	security
seem	seem
send	send
sex	sex
shake	shake
shoot	shoot
should	should
shoulder	sholder
show	sho
side	side
similar	similar
since	since
single	single
sit	sit
site	site
situation	situation
size	size
skill	skill
source	sorce
south	south
special	special
start	start
state	state

store	stor
structure	structure
student	student
study	studdy
such	such
support	suport
ten	ten
than	than
the	the
their	their
then	then
theory	the-ory
they	they
thing	thing
third	third
thought	thought
through	throo
thus	thus
to	to
together	together
tonight	tonight
too	too
top	top
toward	toward
town	town
trial	tryal
truth	trooth
tv	tv
understand	understand
unit	unit
us	us
use(n)	uess(n)
usually	usually
very	verry
wait	wait
weight	weight
west	west
whatever	whatevver
when	when
where	where

while	while
within	within
work	work
worry	wurry
would	would
write	'rite
your	your