

# The Simplified Spelling Society

## *Aim*

Working for planned change in English spelling  
for the benefit of learners and users everywhere.

## *Objectives*

- A To publicize the unnecessary difficulties of English spelling and the benefits that its simplification would bring.
- B To raise awareness of the alphabetic principle, its corruption during the long history of written English, and its more rational application in other languages.  
(See Six Axioms).
- C To promote research and debate on ways of reforming English spelling, and to prepare a graded set of proposals for relating word-forms more predictably to speech-sounds.
- D To help co-ordinate proposals for English spelling reform across both English-speaking and non-English-speaking countries.
- E To persuade the public, opinion-formers, policy-makers and relevant agencies of the need for and practical possibilities of reforming English spelling.

## **six axioms on english spelling**

- 1 The letters of the alphabet were designed to represent speech sounds; that is the alphabetic principle.
- 2 The alphabetic principle makes literacy easy, allowing the reader to pronounce words from their spelling, and the writer to spell them from their sounds.
- 3 As pronunciation changes through the ages, the alphabetic principle tends to be corrupted; the spelling of words then needs to be adapted to show the new sounds.
- 4 Unlike other languages, English has not systematically modernized its spelling over the past 1,000 years, and today it only haphazardly observes the alphabetic principle.
- 5 Neglect of the alphabetic principle now makes literacy unnecessarily difficult in English throughout the world, and learning, education and communication all suffer.
- 6 Procedures are needed to manage improvements to English spelling as a world communication system.

Chris Upward, 1997.

*This was published 2-sided landscape to be cut into 3.*