

Personal View

Guidance for those submitting alternative spelling schemes

A General Criteria

1. Submissions may only be accepted from full members of the Society.¹
2. Schemes should differ significantly from those previously published, whether on the Society's website or elsewhere.
3. Authors of radical schemes should exercise caution in submitting proposals that use characters other than the 26 letters of the current English alphabet, which employ diacritics (accents), or which use characters from current English spelling for sounds which are totally different from present normal usage. Such schemes may present additional obstacles to their acceptance by the general public and may also be difficult to type using a standard QWERTY keyboard.
4. Authors of conservative scheme should exercise caution in the excessive retention of irregular spellings from current English spelling. They should be able to demonstrate that despite such retentions, their scheme could make a significant contribution to increased access to literacy.

B Format

- 1 All submissions must:
 - a. Be in Word format.
 - b. Be no longer than 12 sides of A4.
 - c. Be in current English spelling, apart from where necessary to explain the scheme to the reader.
 - d. As far as possible, follow the template in the Annex.
 - e. Complete the 2 tables indicating representation of vowels and consonants.
 - f. Address the standard questions to authors.
 - g. Complete the 4 standard texts and the word list.

¹ If an author whose scheme has been published on the website ceases to be a member of the Society (other than through death), the Committee reserves the right to remove the scheme from the Personal View Section to an archive. Authors whose schemes have been accepted are however eligible for life membership of the Society at a discounted rate.

C. Submission Procedure

1. The scheme must be submitted as an email attachment in Word format.
2. The reviewer, after considering the submission, will indicate to the author whether:
 - the scheme can be accepted without amendment,
 - the scheme can be accepted subject to certain amendments, or
 - the scheme is rejected without invitation to make amendments (reasons will be given).
3. Once the author has been advised that the scheme is acceptable, the reviewer will arrange for the scheme to be published on the Society's web site. The Society does not normally send hard copy of newly published schemes to members and any author wishing us to do so must bear the cost themselves.
4. An author who is discontented with the decision of the reviewer may ask that the matter be discussed at a meeting of the Committee.

**Approved by the Committee
October 2024**

Number assigned
on publication

English Spelling Society
Personal Views
[name of scheme]
by [name of author]

The Author

Space for personal details. How the author became interested in spelling reform.

Scheme proposal

A short precis of what the scheme is about and what are its main rules.

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1 Introduction

*A general section for the author to enlarge
on the first page short precis,
setting out the scheme's general principles.*

For example, does it seek one-way or two-way phonemicity²?

Is it to be regarded as radical or conservative?

Does it use new symbols or unusual letter combinations?

Are there any particular characteristics that distinguish it from other schemes.

² One-way phonemicity is when the pronunciation can be predicted from the spelling. Two-way phonemicity is when the spelling can also be predicted from the pronunciation.

2. Tables of Phonemes

(a) Vowels)

Scheme characters	SAMPA ³ symbol	IPA symbol	Typical current English Spelling example	Scheme equivalent
	{	æ	pat	
	e	e	pet	
	I	I	pit	
	⁴ Q or A:	ɒ or ɑ:	pot	
	V	ʌ	pun	
	eI	eI	spade, maid, lay	
	i:	i:	speed	
	aI	aI	divide, die, why	
	@U or oU	əʊ or oʊ	foe, load	
	ju:	ʊə	few, hue	
	A:(r)	ɑ:(r)	farm	
	A:	ɑ:	father, palm	
	3: or 3`	3: or 3:`	nurse	
	O:(r)	ɔ:(r)	store	
	O:	ɔ:	fraud, saw, all	
	e@ or e@(r)	e ə or e ə(r)	fair, bare,	
	i@ or i(r)	I ə or I ə(r)	beer	
	U	ʊ	full, pudding	
	u:	u:	spoon	
	aU	a ʊ	loud, cow	
	OI	ɔ I	loin, boy	
	i	i	fairy	
	@	ə	⁵ (Schwa)	

³ SAMPA is the set of phonetic symbols specially adapted for English from IPA. It follows the IPA symbols but is designed to be used on an ordinary QUERTY keyboard.

⁴ Where two pronunciation symbols are shown, the left hand one indicates Received Pronunciation ('BBC English') and the right hand 'GenAM' (American) or in some instances more general rhotic pronunciation.

⁵ Schwa is the term for the indeterminate sound arising from the pronunciation of many unaccented English syllables (e.g. appel, parlous, nation etc). Some reformers have an all-purpose syllable for this sound, usually <u>; others leave the original spelling, sometimes abbreviated).

(b) Consonants

Scheme Character(s)	SAMPA Symbol	IPA symbol	Typical current English Spelling example	Scheme equivalent
	b	b	bat	
	tʃ	tʃ	chart	
	d	d	dog	
	f	f	frog	
	g	g	go	
	h	h	hard	
	dʒ	dʒ	jam	
	k	k	cat, kettle	
	l	l	lamb	
	m	m	man	
	n	n	nap	
	ŋ	ŋ	ring	
	p	p	pun	
	kw	kw	queen	
	r	r	run	
	s	s	sun	
	ʃ	ʃ	sheep	
	t	t	tap	
	ð	ð	that	
	θ	θ	thin	
	v	v	vast	
	w	w	win	
	ks, gz	ks, gz	exit, exactly ⁶	
	j	j	yes	
	z	z	zoo, his	
	ʒ	ʒ	pleasure	

⁶ In current spelling <x> is pronounced /ks/ generally but as /gz/ when the second syllable is stressed.

3. The Scheme's Principles and Rules

An opportunity for the author to explain entries in the two tables in as much detail as required; also to mention any other rules not covered by the two tables and which are needed to inform the reader how the scheme deals with particular sounds.

4. Answers to the following Questions (to the extent not already answered)

(i) Is this a new original idea or is it adapted from one developed by the writer or someone else?

(ii) Is it an initial scheme for learning literacy, as a step to current English spelling or is it for permanent adult use?

(iii) Are there any supplementary rules to cover exceptions to the proposed system? If so, please detail.

(iv) Does your system cater for schwa. Does it indicate stress?

(v) Is the scheme based on any particular dialect of English? If so on which? Would you cater for other dialects? If so, how?

(vi) Is the scheme based on an assumed knowledge of English / current English spelling or is it independent, that is could people who had learned the spelling rules pronounce a text correctly even though they had no knowledge of English?

(vii) How many characters does the scheme require when compared with a text in current English spelling?

(viii) How big is the change from current English spelling? Give an estimate of the percentage of words whose spelling would need to be changed. How many sign words⁷ would be retained?

(ix) Outline how the author envisages the scheme being used. How would it be introduced and existing publications be dealt with?

(x) Does the author regard homophones as a problem and does the system indicate them in any way?

(xi) Could the system be used easily on most computers and word processors?

(xii) Is the system used in everyday life by the author and anyone else?

⁷ 'sign word' is a word not following the scheme's rules; it normally retains the current English spelling.

Standard Texts

Please insert the scheme version under each text and show number of characters used⁸

The Star (H G Wells)

It was on the first day of the new year that the announcement was made, almost simultaneously from three observatories, that the motion of the planet Neptune, the outermost of all the planets that wheel about the sun, had become very erratic. A retardation in its velocity had been suspected in December. Then a faint, remote speck of light was discovered in the region of the perturbed planet. At first this did not cause any great excitement. Scientific people, however, found the intelligence remarkable enough even before it became known that the new body was rapidly growing larger and brighter, and that its motion was quite different from the orderly progress of the planets. (114 words; 569 characters current English spelling; [xxx] characters PV scheme⁸; [xxx] words respelled in PV Scheme.)

Britten when young (Frank Kermode)

We may nowadays be chary about using the word 'genius', but we still have a good idea what is meant by it. For example, there are great numbers of very gifted musicians who are admired but not called geniuses. But there are others, manifestly prodigious, performing often at extraordinary ages, a variety of feats so complex that the layman could hardly imagine, even with the most desperate labour, accomplishing any of them, while even musicians are astonished: and we then reach for the good, handy, vague, Enlightenment word and call them geniuses. The list includes Mozart and Mendelssohn; and despite all the limiting judgements, it includes Benjamin Britten. (108 words; 558 characters current English spelling; [xxx] characters PV scheme⁸; [xxx] words respelled in PV Scheme)

Ode to a nightingale (John Keats)

'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,
but being so happy in thine happiness.
that thou, light-winged Dryad of the trees
in some melodious plot
of beechen green, and shadows numberless,
singest of summer in full-throated ease.

(38 words; 190 characters current English spelling; [xxx] characters PV scheme⁸; [xxx] words respelled in PV Scheme)

Fuzzy-opaque orthographical visions (C Upward)

There was a poor boy couldn't spell
Half the words in our language too well.
His teachers thought: "Brain-sick!"
Mum and Dad hoped: "Dyslexic?"
Yet the child rashly jeered:

"What the hell!" (32 words; 158 characters current English spelling⁹; [xxx] characters PV scheme⁸, [xxx] words respelled PV Scheme.)

⁸ Authors may underline words changed from current English spelling if they so wish.

⁹ Including punctuation marks but not spaces.

Word List

Current English Spelling	PV Scheme	Current English Spelling	PV Scheme
pen, copy, happen		lot, odd, wash	
back, bubble, job		strut, bud, love	
tea, tight, button		foot, good, put	
city, better		fleece, day, streak	
day, ladder, odd		price, high, try	
key, cock, school		choice, boy	
get, giggle, ghost		goose, two, blue	
church. match, nature		goat, show, no, cold	
judge, age, soldier		mouth, now	
fat, coffee, rough, move		near, here, serious	
thing, author, path		square, fair, various	
this, other, smooth		start, father	
soon, cease sister		thought, law	
zero, zone, roses		north, war	
ship, sure, station		cure, poor, jury	
pleasure, vision		nurse, stir	
hot, whole, behind		courage	
more, hammer, some		happy, radiation, glorious	
nice, know, funny, sun		about, comma, common	
ring, long, thanks, sung		influence, situation, annual	
light, valley, feel		intend, basic	
yet, use, beauty		stimulus, educate	
wet, one, when, queen		lit, bid, hymn	
dress, bed		trap, bad	

total number of words: 135
total number of characters in current English Spelling¹⁰: 636
total number of characters in PV Scheme¹⁰:
total number of words whose spelling is changed in PV Scheme:¹¹

¹⁰ Ignoring commas and spaces.

¹¹ Authors may underline words changed from current English spelling if they so wish.