The scheme summarised below was one of 35 that passed the sifting process and was forwarded to the Expert Commission following the first session of the Congress.

IESC 12

Kurrent Spelling (KS)

by Marvin Beachy

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The Author

Marvin Beachy was born in Iowa in 1962 and grew up there. In college he was intrigued when his History of the English Language class covered various attempts to improve the English writing system. Back then the difficulties that dialect differences and societal opposition presented seemed too formidable to allow much hope for change. Since then he has become more aware of the need for change because he has seen dyslexia up close in one of his children, and he now has more friends who speak English as a second, third, or fourth language, whose English proficiency is unfairly sabotaged by the inconsistencies of English spellings. He earned an M.A. in linguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is fortunate to have been able to help develop two writing systems for Dizin, one of Ethiopia's many languages. The second of those writing systems is now the accepted standard.

The English Spelling Society (TESS)

The object of the Society is to raise awareness of the problems caused by the irregularity of English spelling; and to promote remedies to improve literacy, including spelling reform.

A. Design Priorities

Kurrent Spelling (KS) is an English spelling reform notation that attempts to find the optimal balance of minimal visual disruption, maximal ease of learning, and other important considerations. Six of its highest design priorities are to:

(1) Resemble Traditional Spelling (TS) enough to allow most TS readers to immediately read simple KS texts.

(2) Give readers the immediate impression that KS texts are at least aesthetically acceptable, or better, visually attractive.

(3) Make it easy for new readers and writers of English by providing consistent correspondence between sounds and symbols, with relatively few positional rules or exceptions.

(4) Make it easy for fluent readers and writers of English by minimizing visual changes to semantic units.

(5) Minimize the number of mirror images and near-mirror images of symbols used. This helps new learners and those with dyslexia avoid having characters reverse or flip in their minds. (Therefore KS has no <**q**>, except in some borrowed words and proper nouns.)

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Notational Conventions. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is used when presenting data in phonetic or phonemic form. If data is within brackets, [ ], it is phonetic, and if it is within forward slashes, / /, it is phonemic. Angle brackets or chevrons, < >, signify that the text within them are orthographic representations which use the KS alphabet. An asterisk (*) in front of a word marks it as non-standard.

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B. Sound and Symbol Correspondence Tables

KS proposes starting from the English sounds and sound combinations listed in the tables below. The footnotes contain contextual rules.

IPA Sounds[1]	KS Symbols	KS Examples
p	**p**	**p**et
b	**b**	**b**ɑt
t	**t**	**t**oy
d	**d**	**d**ark
t͡ʃ	**ch**	**ch**art
d͡ʒ	**j**	**j**ar
k	**k**	**k**índ
g	**g**	**g**ɑs
f	**f**	**f**ɑn
v	**v**	**v**ɑn
θ	**th**	**th**orn
ð	**th dh**[2]	**th**ɑt mou**dh**
s	**s**	**s**tar
z	**z**	**z**ip
ʃ	**sh**	**sh**ip
ʒ	**zh**	Bre**zh**nev
h	**h**	**h**ɑt
m	**m**	**m**ɑn
n	**n**	**n**ot
ŋ	**ng**	bɑ**ng**
l	**l**	**l**ɑmp
r	**r**	**r**ɑt
w	**w**	**w**ɑx
j	**y**	**y**es
hw	**wh**	**wh**en
ʔ	**'** [3]	u'o
x	**k/ċh**	lo**k**/lo**ċh**
ks	**x**	fo**x**
ŋk	**nk**	bɑ**nk**

[1] KS spellings will normally reflect the pronunciations shown in the most respected English dictionaries, such as Cambridge, Longman, Oxford, and Merriam-Webster. However, credible evidence from other sources can also be the basis of decisions.

IPA Sounds	KS Symbols	KS Examples
ŋks	**nx**	ji**nx**
æ	**ɑ**	**ɑ**nt
ä/æ	**ɑ**	**ɑ**sk
ä	**á**	f**á**ther
ɒ/ä	**o**	h**o**td**o**g
ɔ	**ɑu ɑw ɑl**[4]	**ɑu**to l**ɑw** b**ɑl**l
ə	**a**	**a**round
ɨ	**i**	spot**i**d
ɪ	**i**	th**i**s
i/ɪ	**y**[5]	cloud**y**
i	**ee e**[6]	n**ee**d vid**e**o sh**e** agr**e**

[2] <**dh**> is only used for **moudh** 'mouth (verb)', **lódh** 'loathe', **dhy** 'thy', **sheedh** 'sheathe', **teedh** 'teethe', and any other voiced members of minimal pairs.

[3] **/ʔ/** and **/x/** are marginal consonants in English, so their orthographic representations (' and **ċh**) will not normally be taught with the KS writing system.

[4] <**ɑl**> is used before **l**; <**aw**> is used word finally and before vowels and before the letter **n** (e.g. **dɑwn**), but not when followed by **n** and another consonant which is part of the same root (e.g. **lɑundry**, but **ɑwsam**). <**au**> is used elsewhere.

[5] This is always unstressed and always at the end of a word with more than one syllable. Unlike TS, this <**y**> never changes to <**i**> when a suffix follows it. (e.g. **gɑudy**, **gɑudyer**)

[6] <**ee**> is used before consonants; <**e**> is used before vowels, and when stressed word finally.

IPA Sounds	KS Symbols	KS Examples
eɪ	**ɑi ɑy ɑ**[7]	r**ɑi**n d**ɑy ɑ**orta
ɛ	**e eh**[8]	th**e**m m**eh**
ɹ̩/ɜ	**ur**	m**ur**der
ɹ̩/ə	**er**	mɑst**er**
ʌ	**u**	r**u**gby
ʊ	**oo ul**[9]	b**oo**k p**ul**l
u	**uu u**[10]	p**uu**l Z**uu**l**u**
ju	**ue**	arg**ue**
ɔɪ	**oi oy**[11]	b**oi**l b**oy**
əʊ/oʊ	**ó o**[12]	p**ó**l**o** k**ó**opt g**ó**ing shɑd**ó**y g**o** shɑd**o** k**o**ed
äɪ	**í i** **y ý**[13]	ch**í**ld **Ó**h**i**o m**y** apl**y** mɑgnif**ý**

IPA Sounds	KS Symbols	KS Examples
äʊ	**ou ow**[14]	ab**ou**t h**ow**
är	**ar**	b**ar**n
ɪr/ɪə	**ir**	**ir**relavant
ɛr/ɛə	**air**	f**air**
ɔr	**or**	f**or**
ɔr/ɔə	**or**	f**or**s
ʊr/ʊə	**uur**	j**uur**y
jʊr/jʊə	**eur**	**Eur**o f**eur**y
wɒ/wä	**wo**	**Wo**shingtan
hwɒ/ hwä	**who**	**who**tever
(ə)l	**al**	frug**al**
(ə)m	**am**	blos**am**
(ə)n	**an**[15]	gard**an**

[7] <**ɑi**> is used before consonants; <**ɑy**> is used word finally; <**ɑ**> is used before vowels.

[8] <**eh**> is only used word finally, where /**ɛ**/ rarely occurs.

[9] <**ul**> is used before **l**; <**oo**> is used elsewhere.

[10] <**uu**> is used before consonants; <**u**> is used elsewhere.

[11] <**oi**> is used before consonants; <**oy**> is used elsewhere.

[12] <**ó**> is used before consonants, and the vowels <**o**>, <**i**>, and <**y**> (to prevent ambiguity with digraphs); <**o**> is used elsewhere.

[13] /**äɪ**/ is represented by <**í**> before consonants; by <**i**> before vowels; by <**y**> at the end of monosyllabic words or at the end of multisyllabic words in which the only vowel(s) besides /**äɪ**/ are /**ə**/(<**a**>); and by <**ý**> at the end of multisyllabic words in which there is a vowel besides /**aɪ**/ and /**ə**//(<**a**>). This <**y**> never changes to <**i**> when a suffix follows it. (e.g. <**try**>, <**tryd**>)

[14] <**ow**> is used word finally, before vowels and the letters **n** or **l** (e.g. **how, power, town**, **gown**, **owl**, **growl**) but not when followed by **n** and another consonant which is part of the same root (e.g. **found**, but **township**).

[15] KS has nine sight words, words that do not conform to the above rules:

1. <**I**> '**I**' (always upper case)
2. <**ý**> '**eye**' (because adding a suffix like <**ing**> to plain <**y**> results in ambiguity)
3. <**O**> '**O/oh**' (always upper case)
4. <**yu**> '**you**' (this exception to the use of <**ue**> for /**ju**/ is made so that it looks more like <**yor**> '**your**' and other related words)
5. <**ɑ**> '**a**' (this represents the strong pronunciation of the word, /**eɪ**/, not /**ə**/)
6. <**nó**> '**know**' (this distinguishes it from the homophone '**no**'.)
7. <**thee**> '**thee**' (to distinguish it from the partial homophone '**the**')
8. <**thou**> '**thou**'
9. <**tuu**> '**too**' and '**two**' (to distinguish them from the partial homophone '**to**')

C. Answers to TESS's Standard Questions

1. Is this a new original idea or is it adapted from one developed by the writer or someone else? It is a new original idea which draws some of its features from the writing systems of other languages and other English reform notations.

2. Is it an initial scheme for learning literacy, as a step to TS, or is it for permanent adult use? The hope is that when enough English readers and writers become aware of how unnecessarily costly their writing system is, a majority of them will want to replace it, so KS is intended for permanent adult use. In the interim, many could benefit if KS were used to teach initial literacy as a step toward reading and writing TS.

3. Are there any supplementary rules? If so, please detail. Yes. They follow.

Alphabetical order and letter names. The upper case and lower case forms of the 27 letters of the Kurrent Spelling alphabet follow in the proposed alphabetical order. The KS names of the first and last letters are <**ɑlfa**> and <**zed**>, and the rest of the letters keep their traditional English names. <**Q**> is included only for proper nouns and borrowed words.

Ɑɑ Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Capitalization. Upper case forms will normally be used wherever TS uses them: at the beginning of sentences, for the first letters of proper nouns, and for the words '**I**' and '**O**', which is a variant TS spelling of '**oh**'.

Punctuation. For formal writing, KS encourages the use of punctuation which is consistent with traditional English formal writing, except for illogical conventions like always putting periods and commas inside of quotation marks. When the use of two adjacent letters that could be digraphs results in ambiguity, a hyphen (**-**) can be used to show that the letters should be pronounced separately. For example, writing <**mis-hɑp**> for 'mishap' is helpful so the reader does not say [*ˈ**mɪ.ʃæp**] and writing <**a-round**> for 'around' makes it clear so that the reader will not say [*ˈ**ʔär.aʊnd**]. This is only suggested for when one is writing for beginning readers.

Contractions. When one or two words are contracted, the result will normally be marked with an apostrophe where the last deleted sound was in the original word. If two words contract into one, the space is deleted. For example, <**ar not**> 'are not' becomes <**arn't**> 'aren't'. Some of the contractions that merge "not" with the word that precedes it end phonetically with [**ənt**]. For example, <**did not**> 'did not' becomes [**dɪdənt**] 'didn't' and <**hɑd not**> 'had not' becomes [**hædənt**] 'hadn't'. In these cases the [**ə**] which was inserted will not be written. So, the examples will be written <**didn't**> and <**hɑdn't**>. The apostrophe does not need

to be used for words which change more significantly. For example, <**góing tu**> 'going to' becomes <**guna**> 'gonna', not <***gun'a**>.

Spelling proper nouns. People can be very attached to the spellings they have always had for their own names and names of other people and places, so allowance should be made for those who wish to continue using TS spellings of proper nouns. For clarity TS spellings could be italicized or underlined. Ideally, as a courtesy to others, the way that a person pronounces his or her own name should eventually be reflected in the spelling. In the case of place names, if they are respelled, the speech of those who live there (when they are speaking English) should be given high consideration, as should the speech of wider communities.[16]

Morphological and partially morphological spellings. KS is not always a completely phonemic writing system. Some linguists use the term "Lexical Orthography Hypothesis" to refer to what are here called morphological and partially morphological spellings.

(a) The TS -s suffixes. The English TS suffixes **-s** and **-es** mark plurality on nouns and 3rd person singular verbal agreement. Most times these suffixes will be spelled <**z**>, but after sibilants (**s, z, sh, zh, ch, j,** and **x**) they will be spelled <**iz**>. In TS the apostrophe in combination with the suffix **-s** (**-'s** or **-s'**) marks possession. KS keeps the traditional use of the apostrophe, but uses **z** instead of **s**, since linguistic evidence is clear that /**z**/ is the underlying form, not /**s**/. Support for the notion that the plural suffix is the same item in a native English speakers mind, whether it is pronounced as /**s**/ or /**z**/, is found in the recent practice of using "**z**" as the plural in business names, such as "**Fotoz**" and "**Paintz by Sam**". Interestingly, in the case of "**Paintz**", the "**z**" actually makes the name *less* phonemic. "**Sheetz**", the name of a chain of convenience stores, has played off the "**z**" in their name for some of their menu items and headings on their website. Items such as "**Subz**", "**Saladz**", "**Burgerz**", "**Jobz**", and "**Job openingz**" *are* phonemically more correct, but the menu has also had "**Wrapz**" and "**Pretzel Meltz**". These are further examples of spellings that are *not* more phonemically correct, and serve as evidence that English speakers would be fine with a bigger switch to always using "**z**" as the plural marker, even when it is pronounced /**s**/. Examples:

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[16] For example, the KS spelling for the way some natives of Columbus, Ohio say the name of their city would be <**Klumbas**>, while the KS spelling for the way most Americans say the name of that city would be <**Kalumbas**>. The latter is the suggested future standard KS spelling.

Plurals		3rd Person Singular Verb Markers		Possessives	
TS	KS	TS	KS	TS	KS
sounds	**soundz**	brings	**bringz**	farmer's	**farmer'z**
lamps	**lɑmpz**	gets	**getz**	farmers'	**farmerz'**
axes	**ɑxiz**	marches	**marchiz**	bank's	**bɑnk'z**
				Rex's	**Rex'z**

Many reform spelling proposals understandably spell these three suffixes phonemically, which would, perhaps, work well enough. However, KS's partially morphological approach resembles TS's partially morphological approach, which seems intuitive to writers and readers, so in the long run, it would likely function better. Roberts, et al. seem to agree: “Take, for example, the alternations between [s] and [z] of the English plural suffix in words like cat-s and dog-z. Even though /s/ and /z/ are phonemes in English (cf. sip vs. zip), native speakers are not very aware that they pronounce these phonemes differently in words like cat-s and dog-z, and they would probably not be very favorable to writing them differently in the orthography.” (2016:115-116)

(b) The TS -ed suffix. The English TS past tense suffix **-ed** can always be spelled <**id**> after /**d**/ and /**t**/, and can be spelled <**d**> elsewhere, even if it is pronounced as [**t**]. Examples: **adoptid, divídid, grɑbd, stopd, wishd, markd**

(c) The TS -er suffixes. The suggestion is to always write <**er**> for the suffixes that means ‘more than’ and ‘one who does’. So, we can write <**hír**> for ‘hire’, but <**hyer**> for ‘higher’.

(d) The contraction “they're”. When the words <**thɑy ar**> ‘they are’ are contracted the result can be the partially morphological spelling <**thɑy'r**> ‘they're’, rather than what would be a more phonological spelling <*__thair__>.

Doubled letters. KS will have doubled letters much less commonly than TS does. The main occurrence is when affixes and roots bring the same sound together, and writing only one of the symbols causes a problem. For example, when the prefix <**un-**> ‘un-’ attaches to <**nɑcheral**> ‘natural' the spelling is <**unnàcheral**> not <*__unàcheral__>. The last spelling could result in an incorrect pronunciation: [**ʔʌ.ˈnæ.t͡ʃɻ.l̩**].

4. Does your system cater for schwa and stress? Yes. KS uses <**A**> and <**a**> to symbolize the schwa sound: [**ə**]. It is normally written when it is spoken in a word in careful speech. Many English vowels are “reduced” to /**ə**/ or /**ɪ**/ in unstressed contexts. Dictionaries show strong and weak pronunciations for ‘**the**’ and ‘**a**’ and some other entries. The non-reduced or strong forms will be the basis of the standard KS spellings. So, writing <**the**> and <**ɑ**> is expected, rather than <*__tha__> and <*__a__>.

Marking stress can make learning to read English easier, especially for those whose first language is something other than English. KS’s default does not mark stress, though it is possible to mark irregular stress, which some will want to do for new readers. If primary

stress falls on a syllable other than the first one that does not contain <**a**> or <**er**>, it is marked with a grave accent (`) on the first vowel of that syllable, or with the right half of the circumflex if the acute accent would need to be there if stress were not marked.[17]

To mark secondary stress, if it falls on a syllable other than the first one that does not contain <**a**> or <**er**>, it is marked with a macron (¯). Examples follow:
Default KS (no stress marked): <**dipendabilaty**, **insíklapeedea**, **divóshan**, **awɑy**, **perhɑps**>
Initial KS (full stress marked): <**dipēndabìlaty**, **insī́klapèedea**, **divôshan**, **awɑy**, **perhɑps**>

5. If this is a phonemic system, which accent of English is it based on? Would you cater for other accents of English? How? This may be the most difficult issue that spelling reformers need to address, and probably no one person is capable of arriving at the best solution in isolation. Whatever international committee ends up finalizing the details of a reformed writing system will need to listen carefully to all the stakeholders to make the best choices. Probably the most important factor when deciding between options which come from major dialects is how much they resemble TS. If that is close to a tie, the prestige dialect of the nation where the English language developed, known as Received Pronunciation (RP), should most often be given precedence.

GA's missing phoneme: /ɒ/. RP has four related vowel IPA phonemes, /**æ, ä, ɒ, ɔ**/, while GA has only three which correspond with them, /**æ, ä, ɔ**/. The KS graphemes to represent these sounds are <**ɑ, á, o, ɑu/ɑw**>. The proposed solution for the differences is to write the RP equivalent of these vowels. The words "**fox**" and "**dog**" in various notations clarifies this: RP IPA: /**fɒks dɒg**/; GA IPA: /**fäks dɔg**/; KS: <**fox dog**> If KS gave precedence to GA for these words, the sentence would look less like TS: <***fáx *dɑug***>

Rhotics. When rhotic dialects differ from RP in their pronunciation of [**ɹ**], they should take precedence over RP and other non-rhotic dialects. The result is words that look much more like TS than if the non-rhotic versions were written.

The ásk/ɑsk issue. English has about "a hundred and fifty words in common use" (Baugh & Cable 1978:368) that have the sound /**ä**/ as in '**a**ther' in RP and some other dialects, and that sound is an /**æ**/ as in '**a**pple' in GA and some other dialects. A few examples are "**ask, answer, grass**, and **dance**." In KS, this is not close to a tie with regard to resemblance of TS (since TS does not normally have diacritics), so the suggestion is for everyone to normally spell these the GA way, <**ɑsk, ɑnsər, grɑs, dɑns**>, not the other way, <**ásk, ánsər, grás, dáns**>.

Different or same spellings? Two types of dialect differences for individual words can be recognised. The first can be called **zebra/zeebra differences**, and the second can be called **mum/mom differences**. The **zebra/zeebra differences** are those for which writers in all dialects would be expected to use the same spelling. So <**zebra**> would be the standard KS spelling for '**zebra**' for all writers, no matter how they pronounce the

[17] The idea of using the grave, acute, and circumflex diacritics in this manner came from the reform notation called Módifaid Póliyglot's Staendardspel. (Johnson-Smith, et al. 2017:4).

word. The **mum/mom differences** are those for which writers who speak different dialects can spell those words their own way. The label comes from the familiar forms of '**mother**'. Those who are used to saying /**mʌm**/ '**mum**' can write <**mum**>, and if they say /**mäm**/ '**mom**' they can write <**mom**>.

Opinions differ on whether words with different pronunciations like "**privacy**" and "**schedule**" should be spelled only one way in a reformed system, or whether allowing two spellings would be better. Ideally the committee in charge of this will be respected to the extent that its choices for which words fit into which category will be accepted by the general public. Those with an interest in minimizing the difficulty of reading text no matter what part of the world it comes from, will argue that few words should be placed in the **mum/mom** category.

Compound words. Dialects that change the parts of compound words the least can be preferred. For example, since the dialects that pronounce the words '**forehead**' and '**anything**' as <**forhed**> and <**enything**> change the appearance of the component parts less than <*__forad__> and <*__enathing__>, those dialects' pronunciations can be the preferred KS spellings for these words.

Origins and connection. Dialects from which a word originates, or is currently most connected with, can be preferred over other dialects. For example, the word '**rodeo**' has the preferred RP pronunciation of /**rəʊˈdeɪ.əʊ**/, and a second pronunciation, /**ˈrəʊ.di.əʊ**/, which corresponds with GA's only pronunciation, /**ˈroʊ.di.oʊ**/. While the policy of minimizing change from TS already argues for the KS standard to be <**ródeo**>, not <*__ródɑo__>, it also seems sensible for an international standard to be <**ródeo**> because rodeos are more American than British.

Regional speech. In certain literature, authors have wanted to represent colloquial conversation accurately in order to convey regional speech. To make that more possible, for dialects such as Cockney that include the glottal stop /**ʔ**/, the grapheme <'> can be used, and for dialects such as Scottish Standard English that include the voiceless velar fricative /**x**/, the grapheme <**ċh**> can be used.

6. Is the scheme based on an assumed knowledge of English / TS, 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? Default KS does require some knowledge of English vocabulary, morphology, and dialectal pronunciations. However, when writing for new readers it is recommended that writers include the following features so that no prior knowledge is needed:

1) Stress is marked with diacritics. (See p. 7.)

2) Sequences that look like digraphs are separated with hyphens. (See p. 4.)

3) All occurences of /**ð**/ are written as <**dh**>. (Default KS writes /**ð**/ as <**th**> except that when it is a member of a minimal pair with /**θ**/, it is written as <**dh**>.)

4) The dialect of English which the learners will want to be speaking can be written, rather

than default KS's international standard.

7. How does the running text in the scheme compare in length with TS? From the 497 words in the sample texts and wordlist in this paper, we see that KS may require about 7% fewer letters than TS.

8. Would you suggest that all publications be produced in your system? What are your suggestions for dealing with material previously published? It should eventually become a new standard that all new English publications (hopefully) voluntarily use. The most important material previously published should be digitized and converted electronically. Other material could be converted on demand as well. Since electronic storage of data is now inexpensive, both versions should be available for generations to come.

9. Do you envisage your system and TS co-existing until agreement is reached on dropping TS (as with conversion to metric measures?) Yes.

10. Do you regard homophones as a problem and does your system indicate them in any way? Speakers and listeners do not usually consider homophones to be much of a problem. However, writers and readers often do not have access to intonations or immediate clarification, so homophones can be some more problematic for them. Generally, though, context helps enough that KS usually does not see the need to distinguish them. At this point, the only ways KS indicates homophones are the result of 1) morphemic spellings, 2) maintaining TS's conventions for using apostrophes to mark possession and contractions, and 3) having exceptional spellings apply to one or two of a set of homophones, i.e. <**I**> 'I' and <**ý**> 'eye'; <**ɑ**> 'a' and <**ɑy**> 'eh'; <**no**> 'no' and <**nó**> 'know'; <**the**> 'the' and <**thee**> 'thee'. If the consensus would be to indicate more homophones, one method could be to double one letter (usually the last) of the least frequently used of the two homophones. Another method could be to use a diacritic.

11. Could your system be used easily on most computers and word processors? Yes. The most common computers, those with the Windows operating system, can already easily type KS after installing freely available software. Other computers and smartphones could also have solutions made for them. The standard physical QWERTY keyboard can still be used with key reassignments and key sequences providing the needed characters and diacritics, all of which have standard Unicode code points.

12. Is the system used in everyday life by the author or anyone else? By the author, yes. For over five years he has often taken hand-written notes using varieties of KS. He has also keyboarded KS on computers enough that it is not difficult.

D. Justifying an Unconventional Character and Diacritics

While unconventional characters can add challenges, the alternatives can arguably be more problematic. The alternatives are to use digraphs, use diacritics, or under-represent English sounds. While KS sometimes uses these three alternatives, to *only* use them would result in text which would not satisfy KS's main design priorities as well (see p. 1).

This version of KS includes only one extra letter in its alphabet <**ɑɑ**> and it is a variation of the traditional TS letter <**Aa**>. It is chosen in order to keep from using the digraph <**ae**> for /**æ**/, or choosing some other solution, while still staying close to the appearance of TS. The upper case and lower case glyphs are included in freely available fonts, and a free keyboarding solution which works on most computers is already available. However, those who are used to typing TS could continue to do so, and converters would then transfer text to KS.

The justification for using any of the diacritics which TS doesn't use is that when the design goals of KS are met better with diacritics than with other choices, they should be viewed as permissible options, so they are.

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Appendix 1: Sample Texts

THE STAR

By *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. (556 letters)

THE STAR

By *H G Wells*

It woz on the furst day ov the nu yir that the anounsmant woz maid, allmóst simaltaineasly from thre abzurvatoryz, that the móshan ov the planit Neptuun, the outermóst ov aul the planitz that wheel about the sun, had bikum vairy iratik. A reetardaishan in it'z valosity had bin saspektid in Disember. Then a faint, rimót spek ov lít woz diskuverd in the reejan ov the perturbd planit. At furst this did not kauz eny grait ixítmant. Siantifik peepal, however, found the intelijans rimarkabal inuf eevan bifor it bikaim nón that the nu body woz rapidly gróing larjer and bríter and that it'z móshan woz kwít diferant from the orderly progres ov the planitz. (528 letters; 7% fewer)

BRITTEN WHEN YOUNG

By 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 Mendlessohn; and despite all the limiting judgements, it includes Benjamin Britten. (539 letters)

BRITTEN WHEN YUNG

By *Frank Kermode*

We may nowadayz be chairy about uezing the wurd “jeeneas”, but we stil hav a good ídea whot iz ment by it. For igzampal, thair ar grait numberz ov vairy giftid muezishanz hu ar admírd but not kalld jeeneasiz. But thair ar utherz, manifestly pradijas, performing ofan at ixtrordinairy aijiz, a veriaty ov feetz so komplex that the layman kood hardly imajin, eevan with the móst desperat laiber, akomplishing eny ov them, whíl eevan muezishanz ar astonishd: and we then reech for the good, handy, vaig, Enlítanmant wurd and kall them jeeneasiz. The list inkluudz *Mozart* and *Mendlessohn*; and dispít all limiting jujmantz, it inkluudz *Benjamin Britten*. (523 letters; 7% fewer)

ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE

By 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.
(181 letters)

ÓD TU A NÍTINĠÁL

By *John Keats*

'Tiz not thru envy ov thy hapy lot,
But being so hapy in thín hapynas.
That thou, lít-wingid Driad ov the treez.
In sum malódeas plot
Ov beechan green, and shadóz numberlas,
Singast ov sumer in full-thrótid eez.
(164 letters; 12% fewer)

Appendix 2: TESS's Phoneme Word List

TS	Kurant Speling	TS	Kurant Speling
pen, copy, happen	pen, kopy, hɑpan	lot, odd, wash	lot, od, wosh
back, bubble, job	bɑk, bubal, job	strut, bud, love	strut, bud, luv
tea, tight, button	te, tít, butan	foot, good, put	foot, good, poot
city, better	sity, beter	fleece, day, streak	flees, dɑy, streek
day, ladder, odd	dɑy, lɑder, od	price, high, try	prís, hy, try
key, cock, school	ke, kok, skuul	choice, boy	chois, boy
get, giggle, ghost	get, gigal, góst	goose, two, blue	guus, tuu, blu
church, match, nature	church, mɑch, nɑicher	goat, show, no, cold	gót, sho, no, kóld
judge, age, soldier	juj, ɑij, sóljer	mouth, now	mouth, now
fat, coffee, rough, move	fɑt, kofy, ruf, muuv	near, here, serious	nir, hir, sireas
thing, author, path	thing, ɑuther, pɑth	square, fair, various	skwair, fair, vairyas
this, other, smooth	this, uther, smuuth	start, father	start, fáther
soon, cease, sister	suun, sees, sister	thought, law	thɑut, lɑw
zero, zone, roses	ziro, zón, róziz	north, war	north, wor
ship, sure, station	ship, shor, stɑishan	cure, poor, jury	keur, por, juury
pleasure, vision	plezher, vizhan	nurse, stir	nurs, stur
hot, whole, behind	hot, hól, bihínd	courage	kurij
more, hammer, some	mor, hɑmer, sum	happy, radiation, glorious	hɑpy, rɑideɑishan, gloryas
nice, know, funny, sun	nís, nó, funy, sun	about, comma, common	about, koma, koman
ring, long, thanks, sung	ring, long, thɑnkz, sung	influence, situation, annual	influans, situeɑishan, ɑnueal
light, valley, feel	lít, vɑly, feel	intend, basic	intend, bɑisik
yet, use, beauty	yet, uez, buety	stimulus, educate	stimyalas, ejuukɑit
wet, one, when, queen	wet, wun, when, kween	kit, bid, hymn	kit, bid, him
dress, bed	dres, bed	trap, bad	trɑp, bɑd
Total TS Letters:	**635**	**Total Words:**	135
Total KS Letters:	**579 (9% fewer)**	**Total Words Changed:**	101 (75%)
Words in green, which have no changes, and words in blue, which have only visually minor changes:			42 (31%)[18]

[18] The changes that are counted as visually minor are the presence of a diacritic and '**a**' changing to <**ɑ**>. This figure is 53% for a list of the 100 most common English words, and 44% for the 300 most common.