

International English Spelling Congress

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

The summary has been revised following comments received during the consultation process.

Lytspel: A Simple Phonetic Respelling for the English Language

IESC 2 a

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This document has been updated to incorporate changes made in result of two surveys held among congress participants in January and February 2021.

«Double guillemets» are used around Lytspel examples, while «single guillemets» surround traditional spellings. Phonetic symbols, enclosed in /slashes/, use the SAMPA alphabet, an easier-to-type version of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The abbreviation RP stands for Received Pronunciation – the form of English spoken in the United Kingdom, while GA stands for General American – English as typically spoken in the United States.

Consonants

Most consonants are written as expected: «b» as in «bed», «ch» as in «much», «d» as in «desk», «f» as in «fat», «h» as in «hot», «l» as in «leg», «m» as in «mad», «n» as in «now», «ng» as in «long», «p» as in «pop», «r» as in «run», «sh» as in «ship», «t» as in «test», «v» as in «ever», «w» as in «west», «wh» as in «when», «y» as in «yet». Many people speak «w» and «wh» the same way, but not everybody does.

«g» is always pronounced as hard /g/ as in «big, garden», while soft /dʒ/ is always written «j» as in «joy, digit» «...digit».

«zh» is used for /ʒ/ as in «plezher» «pleasure».

The sound /k/ is written as «c» or «k», depending on context:

- «k» is used before «e, i, y», e.g. «keep, king, kynd, calkyulation» «...kind, calculation»
- «k» is also used before «h» to prevent confusion with the digraph «ch» /tʃ/, e.g. «lunkhed» «lunkhead»

- «c» is used before any other letter, e.g. «cat, cost, crisp»
- «c» is also used at the end of words ending in unstressed /{k/ or /lk/, e.g. «mainiac, public» «maniac...»
- «k» is used at the end of other words ending in /k/, e.g. «book, drink, quik, speek» «...quick, speak»

The sound /s/ is written as «c», «s», or «ss», depending on context:

- «c» is used between any vowel and a vowel starting with «e, i, y», e.g. «deecent, iexplicit, dicyd» «decent, explicit, decide»
- «ss» is used between any vowel and a vowel starting with «a, o, u», e.g. «assault, épissoad, assumption» «assault, episode, assumption»
- «ss» is also used at the end of words except after any of the consonants /f, k, p, t, T/, e.g. «less, miss, évidenss» «...evidence»
- «s» is used anywhere else, e.g. «sun, desk, chips, upsets» «...upsets»
- «s» is also used in the prefixes «dis, mis» regardless of which letter follows, e.g. «disagree, misunderstand»

The sound /z/ is written as «s» or «z», depending on context:

- «s» is used between two vowels, e.g. «visit, eesi, dusen, disyr» «...easy, dozen, desire»
- «s» is also used at the end of words except after any of the consonants /f, k, p, t, T/, e.g. «his, wishes, meens, paus» «...means, pause»
- «z» is used anywhere else, e.g. «zeero, igzact» «zero, exact»

The two sounds traditionally written «th» are represented as follows:

- Voiceless /T/ is always written «th», e.g. «thin»
- Voiced /D/ is usually «dh», e.g. «smuudh, wurdhi» «smooth, worthy»
- However, it remains «th» in the frequent words «aulthó, tho, than, the, then, thay, them, thair, thiss, that, thuss» «although, though, than, the, then, they, them, their or there, this, that, thus» as well as in all words ending in /D@`/, such as «another, bother, muther, whether» «another, bother, mother, whether».
- This spelling is preserved in derivatives of all these words, such as «nevertheléss, nuntheléss» «nevertheless, nonetheless» from «the», «themselvs» «themselves» from «them», «thairs, thairby, thairfor» «theirs, thereby, therefore» from «thair», «thees» «these» from «thiss», «thoas» «those» from «that», «utherwys» «otherwise» from «uther» «other». The adjectives «farthest, furthest» are considered derivatives of «farther, further» and thus also written with «th».
- To distinguish them, the small number of words ending in /T@`/ is written with «thur»: «Arthur, athur, eethur, panthur» «Arthur, author, ether/aether, panther». Since no English words end in /T3:/, this spelling is unambiguous.

Vowels

The five primary short vowels are written as expected: «a» as in «cat», «e» as in «pen», «i» as in «big», «o» as in «dog», «u» as in «club».

If these vowels occur at the end of words, «h» is appended, e.g. «Yaaweh, eh, huh» <Yahweh...>.

The other vowels and diphthongs are written as follows:

- «aa» /A/ as in «paam, faather» <palm, father>
- «ai» /eɪ/ as in «aim, faiss» <...face>. Written «ay» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «play, layer».
- «au» /O:/ as in «authur, paus» <author, pause>. Written «aw» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «law, drawing».
- «ee» /i:/ as in «tree, teem» <...team>. Written «i» if it occurs unstressed at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «fanshi, nececiti, vidio, criaition» <fancy, necessity, video, creation>. This spelling is also used at the end of personal pronouns (e.g. «shi, wi» <she, we>) and at the end of prefixes (e.g. «antisoashel, prisupoas» <antisocial, presuppose>).
- «oa» /oʊ/ as in «boat, hoam» <...home>. Written «o» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «sho, poetic» <show...>. This spelling is also used at the end of prefixes, e.g. «jiofisics, thurmodynamics» <geophysics, thermodynamics>.
- «oi» /Oɪ/ as in «oil, point». Written «oy» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «boy, royel» <...royal>.
- «oo» /U/ as in «book»
- «ou» /aʊ/ as in «mouth, doun» <...down>. Written «ow» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «now, power».
- «uu» /u:/ as in «muun, ixcluud» <moon, exclude>. Written «u» if it occurs at the end of words or before another vowel, e.g. «clu, sichuaition» <clue, situation>.
- «ue» (/yʊ/ or /ju:/) as in «váue, cuet» <value, cute>. This spelling is also used in words that are typically spoken with /yʊ/ or /ju:/ in RP, with /u:/ or /U/ in GA, e.g. «due, nuetrel, tuen» <...neutral, tune>.
- «y» /aɪ/ as in «pryss, styl, dry» <price, style...>. Written «iy» if it occurs before another vowel (e.g. «diyámiter, quiet» <diameter, quiet>) or at the end of words after another vowel (e.g. «raidiiy» <radii>), to prevent confusion with the consonant «y» /j/ (as in «yet»).

The Schwa

The schwa /ə/ is an unstressed and neutral vowel that occurs frequently in English words. Lytspel writes it as «u» whenever the traditional spelling contains this vowel, e.g. «álbum, nurvuss» <album, nervous>. Otherwise, «e» is generally used, e.g. «camel, problem, sentrel» <...central>.

A schwa immediately preceding the primarily stressed syllable is represented by one of the other three vowel letters («a, i, o», but not «y») if that's the traditional representation, e.g. «a» in «about», «i» in «imajinaition» «imagination», «o» in «compuet» «compute».

At the end of words, the schwa is always written «a», e.g. «extra, daita» «...data».

Between any of /b, p, k/ and word-final /l/, the schwa is omitted altogether, e.g. «flexibl, simpl, articl» «flexible, simple, article». Likewise, final /z@m/ is written «sm» with the schwa omitted, e.g. «criticism, sarcasm».

Vowel Spellings before R

«r» is doubled after several short vowels to prevent mispronunciations:

- Write /{r/ as «arr», e.g. «carri» «carry» – «ar» is pronounced /Ar/ as in «dark»
- Write /Er/ as «err», e.g. «merri» «merry» – «er» is pronounced /@`/ as in «number»
- Write /Qr/ as «orr», e.g. «sorri» «sorry» – «or» is pronounced /O:r/ as in «north, forss» «...force»
- Write /Vr/ as «urr», e.g. «current» – «ur» is pronounced /3:/ as in «turn»

Spellings Involving Several Sounds

- /i:@/ and /l@/ are written «ia», e.g. «meediam, vairiabl, airia» «medium, variable, area».
- /i:@`/ is written «ier», e.g. «thieri» «theory».
- /oU@/ is written «oe», e.g. «boe, coelition» «boa, coalition».
- /u:@/ and /U@/ are written «ua», e.g. «áccual, ínfluanss» «actual, influence».
- /kw/ is written «qu», e.g. «quit»; the letter «q» only occurs in this combination.
- /ks/ is written «x», e.g. «mix, next, áxident» «...accident».
- Since «ng» represents the single sound /N/ (as in «long»), /ng/ is written «nng», e.g. «cairnngorm» «cairnngorm».
- Before /k/, «n» is pronounced /N/ rather than /n/ (e.g. «bank, tranquil, distinct»), except if «n» and /k/ belong to different parts of a compound (e.g. «raincoat») or if a word starts with any of «con, en, in, non, un» followed by a /k/ sound (e.g. «concluusion, encounter, incompetit, nonconformist, unclear» «conclusion, encounter, incompetent, nonconformist, unclear»).
- If /Nk/ is spoken where the preceding rule suggests /nk/, the /N/ is written «ng», e.g. «congker, ingk, unktion» «conker|conquer, ink, unktion». Some words starting with «con» or «in» are pronounced with /n/ by some speakers, with /N/ by others; in such cases, «n» is used, e.g. «conquest, increment».
- /n/ is written «nn» if it occurs before /k/ in places where «n» would be spoken /N/, e.g. «canncan, melenncoli» «cancan, melancholy».

Spellings Used at the End of Words

- Final «yr» is pronounced /al@`/ (e.g. «fyr» <fire>), while elsewhere it's pronounced regularly as /alr/ (e.g. «vyruss» <virus>).
- Final /O:l/ is written «all», e.g. «ball».
- Final /S@n/ is written «tion», e.g. «section, perimition, muesition» <section, permission, musician>.
- Final /Z@n/ is written «sion», e.g. «vision, iquaision» <...equation>.
- The «tion» and «sion» spellings are preserved in derived words (e.g. «rilaitionship, ocaisionel» <relationship, occasional>), even if the derived form is irregular (e.g. «nationel» <national> from «naition» <nation>).

Stress

Stress is marked using an acute accent in cases where it deviates from the stress pattern predicted by a set of fairly reliable rules. The use of accents is optional (they may be omitted), but recommended – especially in formal contexts such as books and newspapers. In a few cases, two words are distinguished only by the presence of absence of an accent, e.g. «discuss» <discus> versus «discuss» <discuss>.

The rules for predicting the default stress are as follows:

- If a word has just one syllable, no accent (stress marker) is used or needed.
- If a word ends in «ee», this final vowel is stressed (because unstressed /i:/ would be written «i» in this position) – e.g. «agree».
- If a word ends in «a» (the schwa) or «i» (unstressed /i:/) and has just two syllables, the first vowel is stressed (because the second is unstressed by definition) – e.g. «extra, hapi» <...happy>.
- If a word ends in any of «grefi, leji, ic, icl, ics, iti, sion, tion», the vowel preceding this ending is stressed, e.g. «turminoleji, statistic, sicueriti, publicaition» <terminology, statistic, security, publication>.
- Otherwise the first long vowel in the word is considered stressed, e.g. «compleet, confurm, enjineer, iexplain, prisuem, sufyss» <complete, confirm, engineer, explain, presume, suffice>. Generally, all vowels except for «a, e, i, o, u, oo» and the schwa (as well as their r-colored variants) are considered long. However, with the exception of «y», if a long vowel is written with just one letter (because it precedes another vowel or the end of the word), it does not count for the purposes of this rule – e.g. the «i» in «óbviass» <obvious> and the «o» in «windo» <>window> do not count. If a word ends in any of «ait, y, ys, yt», the long vowel in this ending also does not count for the purposes of this rule.
- Otherwise, if a word starts with a short vowel or with «di» or «ri», the second vowel is considered stressed, e.g. «adopt, upon, difenss, riquest» <adopt, upon, defense, request>. If not, the first vowel is considered stressed, e.g. «current, quantiti» <... quantity>. But in either case, if the chosen vowel would be «er», the next vowel that

is *not* «er» is chosen instead (because «er» is the r-colored schwa, which is never stressed) – e.g. «interject, perhaps». If there is no such next vowel, the first vowel is considered stressed, e.g. «errer» «error».

If these rules fail to correctly predict the stress, an acute accent is added on top of the stressed vowel. If the vowel has two letters, the accent is added on top of the first one, e.g. «maintáin, uenéek» «maintain, unique».

Homophones and Irregular Words

- «ey» «eye» is written irregularly to distinguish it from «y» «l» and for easier recognition in compounds such as «fishey» «fisheye».
- «four» is written irregularly to distinguish it from «for» «for or fore».
- «noa» «know» is written somewhat irregularly to distinguish it from «no».
- «oa» «owe» is written somewhat irregularly since a verb with just one letter could be confusing, and also to distinguish it from the interjection «o» «oh».
- «tuu» «too or two» is written somewhat irregularly to distinguish it from «tu» «to».
- The vowels in the articles «the, a, an» retain their traditional spelling.

Rules for Derived and Related Words

- In front of suffixes starting with «e, i, y», final «c» is changed to «k», e.g. «trafiking» «trafficking» from «trafic» «traffic».
- Final «c» remains unchanged in front of such suffixes if its pronunciation changes from /k/ to /s/, e.g. «publicist» from «public».
- In front of suffixes consisting in a single consonant («d, n, s»), final «i» /i:/ becomes «ie» to mark it as long, e.g. «studied» from «studi» «study».
- To prevent misreadings, final «o» /oU/ is changed back to «oa» and final «u» /u:/ to «uu» in front of the same suffixes, e.g. «foload» «followed» from «folo» «follow», «shuus» «shoes» from «shu» «shoe».
- A schwa /@/ at the start of suffixes is written as «a» if the base word ends in /i(:)/ or /u:/, e.g. «eesiast» «easiest» from «eesi» «easy», «duabl» «doable» from «du» «do», «agreeabl» «agreeable» from «agree» «agree». This ensures consistency with the combined spellings «ia» and «ua» used elsewhere and prevents confusion with «ie» in words such as «studied». But r-colored schwa remains «er», e.g. «eesier» «easier».
- Schwas omitted between certain consonants and final «l» or «m» (see “The Schwa” above) are restored as «e» in front of the suffixes «ait/et, erri, ism, ist, oid, uss, ys» «ate, ary..., ous, ise/ize» as well as before stressed «ee», e.g. «voakelist» «vocalist» from «voacl» «vocal», «lybelee» «libelee» from «lybl» «libel».
- Other end-of-word spellings are preserved in all derived forms as long as the base word doesn't change (except for possible shifts of stress), e.g. «weeks, weekli»

- ⟨...weekly⟩ from «week», «classic» from «class», «Amerrican» ⟨American⟩ from «Amerrica» ⟨America⟩, «fansiful» ⟨fanciful⟩ from «fansì» ⟨fancy⟩, «distroyd» ⟨destroyed⟩ from «distroy» ⟨destroy⟩, «hyer» ⟨higher⟩ from «hy» ⟨high⟩, «inspyrd» ⟨inspired⟩ from «inspyr» ⟨inspire⟩, «calling» from «call», «freshen» from «fresh».
- They are also preserved in compounds, e.g. «bakground, fyrwurks» ⟨background, fireworks⟩.
 - If the pronunciation of the base word itself changes (beyond mere shifts of stress), the spelling reflects this, e.g. «creecher» ⟨creature⟩ from «criáit» ⟨create⟩; «discution» ⟨discussion⟩ from «discuss», «mentaliti» ⟨mentality⟩ from «mentel» ⟨mental⟩.
 - The past tense of regular verbs is formed by appending «ed» if /@d/ is spoken (e.g. «waisted» ⟨wasted⟩), «d» if /d/ or /t/ is spoken (e.g. «consíderd, fixd» ⟨considered, fixed⟩). The past tense of irregular verbs is spelled as it's spoken, e.g. «kept» from «keep».
 - Unstressed final /lks/ traditionally written ⟨ics⟩ is treated as if it's a plural (and hence written «ics») even if the corresponding singular form (ending in /lk/) is unknown or rarely used, e.g. «astrofísics» ⟨astrophysics⟩.
 - For consistency with forms derived by appending «li» ⟨ly⟩ to words ending in «cl» ⟨cal⟩ (e.g. «practicli» ⟨practically⟩ from «practicl» ⟨practical⟩), all forms derived by appending ⟨ally⟩ (pronounced /@li:/ or /li:/) to words ending in «c» are written «cli», e.g. «specificli» ⟨specifically⟩ from «specific».

Stress marking in derived words:

- If a word is formed by joining two words into one, no accent is added or removed (e.g. «lyftym» ⟨lifetime⟩ from «lyf» + «tym», «éloruum» ⟨elbowroom⟩ from «élbo» + «ruum»). Suffixed forms likewise don't add or remove accents, except when the stressed syllable shifts, e.g. «ixperrímentel» ⟨experimental⟩ from «ixperriment».
- If a prefix is added in front of a word, no accent is added or removed if the prefix has two or more syllables, e.g. «antisoashel, oaverpryss» ⟨antisocial, overprice⟩. In such cases – just as in the case of compounds formed of two separate words – usually both parts carry a certain amount of stress, so it's hardly necessary to indicate which has more.
- If a prefix has just one syllable, on the other hand, usually either it or the main word is audibly stressed – more often than not the latter. If that is the case, no accent is added or removed, e.g. «riact, unlimited» ⟨react...⟩. But if it's the prefix that is stressed, it is marked with an (acute) accent and any accents from the main word are removed, e.g. «nónsenss, prívue» ⟨nonsense, preview⟩.

Disambiguating Multigraphs

Note: This section is of interest mainly to dictionary makers. Users only need to know that they should add a diaeresis if a vowel sequence could otherwise be misread,

e.g. «coöperaition» ‹cooperation› (pronounced with two adjacent vowel sounds, not one as in «book»). If a consonant sequence could be misread, a hyphen may be added, e.g. «sheeps-hed» ‹sheepshead› (could otherwise be read as «sheepshed»).

- Spellings involving digraphs (such as «ch, ss, ai, ur») and trigraphs (such as «arr, eer») are generally read from left to right: the first letter sequence that can be read as a multigraph should be read as one; e.g. «layer» is read as «l-ay-er» /l'el@`/.
- But if any of «i, o, a» is followed by «aa» or «ai», the first vowel is read separately from the rest of the sequence, e.g. «coaala, apreeshiait, oaiciss, sichuaition» ‹koala, appreciate, oasis, situation›.
- Since final /OI/ is spelled «oy», final «oi» unambiguously represents the two vowels /oUi:/, e.g. «shoi» ‹showy› from «sho» ‹show›.
- «oic» at the end of words is always spoken /oUik/ (two separate vowels), e.g. «stoic».
- Except in compounds (e.g. «suuperreejenel» ‹superregional›), double «rr» always forms a trigraph with the vowel to its left, e.g. «Februarri» ‹February› is read as «F-e-b-r-u-err-i».
- In cases where the previous rules would lead to a misreading, Lytspel recommends adding a diaeresis on top of the first vowel that would otherwise be misinterpreted, e.g. «coöperaition, poït, suër» ‹cooperation, poet, sewer›. The recommended way to avoid a possible misreading in a consonant sequence is the insertion of a hyphen, e.g. «sheeps-hed» ‹sheepshead›. If preferred, a hyphen instead of a diaeresis can also be used in the case of vowel sequences, e.g. «co-operaition, po-it».
- Diaereses are generally not inserted between a base word and a suffix, e.g. «truer» from «tru» ‹true›.
- After a prefix or the first part of a compound, a diaeresis is only inserted if the last letter of the first part and the first letter of the second part would otherwise form one of the combinations «oa, oi, oo, ou» (each of which represents a single vowel), e.g. «throäway, coïgzist» ‹throwaway, coexist›. In other cases, no diaereses or hyphens are inserted, e.g. «shorthand».

Spelling of Proper Nouns

- Proper nouns that are in widespread and general use should preferably be respelled, e.g. «Lunden, Juupiter, Micicípi» ‹London, Jupiter, Mississippi›. This might also apply to the names of well-known dead persons, e.g. «Wilyem Shaixpeer, Juulyuss Seeser» ‹William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar›.
- Personal, family, and company names are spelled as their owners prefer it.

- If Irish names starting with «O'» are respelled, the capitalized «O» followed by an apostrophe and a capital letter represents /oU/ followed by a stressed syllable, hence «O'Coner, O'Neel» <O'Connor, O'Neil> would be regular respellings.
- Scottish and Irish names traditionally starting with <Mc> or <Mac> /m@k/ followed by a capitalized and stressed second syllable may be respelled by writing «Mc» followed by a capital letter instead of a stress marker, e.g. «McAdem, McDonel, McCarti» <McAdam, McDonnell, McCarty>.

Accents

Lytspel has been designed as some kind of “global compromise.” It aims to keep the phonetic principle reasonably intact for all varieties of spoken English, and in particular for RP (Received Pronunciation) and GA (General American).

Lytspel, like traditional spelling (TS), represents a rhotic accent; in non-rhotic accents, certain letter sequences may therefore be spoken in the same way, e.g. «er» as in «number» and «a» as in «extra», «ar» as in «hard» and «aa» as in «paam» <palm>.

In other cases, Lytspel resolves differences between RP and GA by consistently choosing one spelling – typically the one that keeps the written language more similar to TS or else is shorter.

Note: The rest of this section explains the rules used in various cases, which should be of interest mainly to dictionary makers:

- /{/ («a») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /A/, /eI/, or /Q/, e.g. «last, patent, rath» <...wrath>.
- /A/ («aa») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /eI/, e.g. «tomaato» <tomato>.
- /al/ («y», «ai» before vowels) is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /i:/, e.g. «nyther» <neither>.
- /E/ («e») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /eI/ or /i:/, e.g. «agen, lezher» <again, leisure>.
- /I/ («i») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /aI/, e.g. «direct».
- /I/ is also preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /i:/ (e.g. «afrodísiac» <aphrodisiac>), unless their traditional representation is <ee> (e.g. «been»).
- /i:/ («ee», «i» before vowels) is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /eI/, e.g. «beeta» <beta>.
- /Q/ («o») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /O:/, /oU/, or /V/, e.g. «cloth, process, from».
- /oU/ («oa») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /O:/, e.g. «sloath» <sloth>.
- /U/ («oo») is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /u:/, e.g. «hoof».
- /Ir/ («ir») is preferred for r-colored vowels otherwise spoken as /3:/, e.g. «squirel» <squirrel>.

- /ɜ:/ («ur») is preferred for r-colored vowels otherwise spoken as /A(r)/, e.g. «clurk» «clerk».
- /w/ («w») is preferred if a sound preceding a vowel is otherwise spoken as /ju:/ or /jU/, e.g. «jágwar» «jaguar».
- If a vowel is spoken as a schwa or omitted altogether in some regions, as /a/ elsewhere, Lytspel generally uses «i» /I/ as a compromise, e.g. «ájl» «agile».
- Otherwise, if a vowel is spoken either with a full vowel sound or else reduced to a schwa or omitted altogether, Lytspel tends to write the full version, e.g. «cátegori, militერი, portrait, python, téstimoani» «category, military, portrait, python, testimony».
- /z/ («s» or «z», depending on position) is preferred for vowels otherwise spoken as /s/, e.g. «irais, talizmen» «erase, talisman».
- If a consonant is commonly spoken as either /Z/ or /S/, final «sion» /Z@n/ is preserved if it's already the traditional ending (e.g. «convursion» «conversion»), otherwise /S/ (usually «sh») is preferred, e.g. «Aisha» «Asia».
- /si:/ (depending on position, but often «ci») is preferred for sequences otherwise spoken as /S/, e.g. «hecian» «hessian».
- /zi:/ (depending on position, but often «si») is preferred for sequences otherwise spoken as /Z/, e.g. «Malaisia» «Malaysia».
- /ti:/ («ti» before vowels) is preferred for sequences otherwise spoken as one of /S, Si:, tS, tSi:/, e.g. «sentiant, consortiam, bestial, bestiერი» «sentient, consortium, bestial, bestiary».
- If a letter is commonly either spoken or silent, Lytspel tends to preserve it, e.g. «platinum, trait» (not “platnum, tray”).
- If speakers in different regions tend to stress different syllables, Lytspel usually places the stress early rather than late, e.g. «decaid» «decade». But in the case of originally foreign words where a late stress placement corresponds to the pronunciation in the original language, it is often preserved, e.g. «cafeen» «caffeine».
- Other differences are usually unique to just one or very few words. In such cases, Lytspel generally prefers the pronunciation that is more similar to the traditional written form, e.g. «cordial, figer, shéduel» «...figure, schedule» (rather than «corjel, figyer, skéjuul»).
- In a few cases, one pronunciation is preferred because it is more similar to a related word, e.g. «pryveci» «privacy» from «pryvet» «private».

Sample: The Gétisburg Ádress (The Gettysburg Address)

Four scor and seven yeers ago our faathers braut forth upon thiss continent, a nue naition, conseevd in Liberti, and dedicaited tu the proposition that all men ar criáited eequel.

Now wi ar engaijd in a grait sivil wor, testing whether that naition, or eni naition so conseevd and so dedicaited, can long enduer. Wi ar met on a grait batel-feeld ov that

wor. Wi hav cum tu dedicait a portion ov that feeld, as a fynel resting plaiss for thoas hu heer gaiv thair lyvs that that naition myt liv. It is aultogéther fiting and proper that wi shood du thiss.

But, in a larjer senss, wi can not dedicait – wi can not consicrait – wi can not halo – thiss ground. The braiv men, living and ded, hu strugeld heer, hav consicraited it, far abuv our poor power tu ad or ditract. The wurd wil litel noat, nor long rimember whot wi say heer, but it can never ferget whot thay did heer. It is for uss the living, rather, tu bee dedicaited heer tu the unfinishd wurk which thay hu faut heer hav thuss far so nobli advanssd. It is rather for uss tu bee heer dedicaited tu the grait task rimaining bifor uss – that from thees onerd ded wi taik increesdd divoation tu that caus for which thay gaiv the last fool mezher ov divoation – that wi heer hyli risolv that thees ded shal not hav dyd in vain – that thiss naition, under God, shal hav a nue burth ov freedem – and that government ov the peepl, by the peepl, for the peepl, shal not perrish from the urth.

Links

- Online converter: <https://www.lytspel.org/> (also allows converting plain text, HTML, or epub files into Lytspel)
- **Note:** As of the time of writing, the website and online converter still use and describe Lytspel's original ruleset, not the partially modified rules described in this document. I plan to publish a new version during the course of February 2021.
- Comprehensive dictionary:
<https://github.com/ChristianSi/lytspel/blob/master/data/lytspel-dict.csv> (105,000 entries, see <https://github.com/ChristianSi/lytspel/blob/master/files.md> for a description of the format of this file and the files used to generate it)
- Repository containing all source code and data files: <https://github.com/ChristianSi/lytspel>