American English Spelling: Errata and Addenda

N.B. I wrote *AES* long before the Lexis database and I am sure there are many inconsistencies between *AES* and the explications in Lexis – that is, many beyond those commented on below.

p. xxvi. These early remarks led Vivian Cook and Des Ryan to invite me to write "The Evolution of British and American Spelling" for *The Routledge Handbook of the English Writing System*. (V. Cook and D. Ryan (eds.). London and NY: Routledge, 2016, pp. 275-92), which discusses the two spelling traditions as changing, co-evolving, and interacting over the centuries.

p. xxvii, down five lines. I still think *work* should be *works* here. ¶3: The ways and problems of teaching and learning English spelling are treated in my *Basic Speller* and *Spelling for Learning*, both available at dwcummings.com and ck12.org. At ck12.org the *Basic Speller* is presented in a more user-friendly form than that at dwcummings.com. Various other issues of teaching spelling are discussed in this Short Articles venue.

p. xxxii. The chart below adds the symbols used at dwcummings.com. It includes a third short <o>, which in later years I've come to feel should be included.

IPA	Symbol Used in *AES*	Symbol Used at website	Example
æ	a	a1	b**a**t
e	ā	a2	b**ai**t
ɑ:, ɑ	ä	o3	b**o**ther
aʊ	aủ	ou	b**ou**t
b	b	b	**b**o**b**
tʃ	ch	ch	**ch**ur**ch**
d	d	d	**d**i**d**

IPA	Symbol Used in *AES*	Symbol Used at website	Example
ɛ	e	e1	b**e**t
i	ē	e2	b**ee**t
f	f	f	**f**lu**ff**
g	g	g	**g**a**g**
h	h	h	**h**at
ɪ	i	i1	b**i**t
aɪ	ī	i2	b**i**te
dʒ	j	j	ju**dg**e
k	k	k	**k**i**ck**
l	l	l1	**l**u**ll**
l̩	ᵊl	l2	litt**le**
m	m	m	**m**u**m**
n	n	n1	**n**u**n**
n̩	ᵊn	n2	light**en**
ŋ	ŋ	ng	si**ng**
o	ō	o2	b**oa**t
ɔ	ȯ	o4	b**ou**ght
ɔɪ	ȯi	oi	b**oy**
p	p	p	**p**o**p**
r	r	r	**r**oa**r**
s	s	s	**s**a**ss**
ʃ	sh	sh	**sh**u**sh**
t	t	t	**t**o**t**

IPA	Symbol Used in *AES*	Symbol Used at website	Example
θ	th	th1	**th**in
ð	<u>th</u>	th2	**th**en
ʌ	u	u1	b**u**t
ʊ	u̇	u3	b**oo**k
u	ū	u2	b**oo**t
v	v	v	**v**at
w	w	w	**w**it
j	y	y	**y**et
	yū	yu2	b**u**tte
z	z	z	**z**ap
ʒ	zh	zh	a**z**ure
ə	ə	u4	**a**lone

pp. 4-9, The Systematicity of American English Spelling. What is said here still seems valid to me, but the whole approach has evolved over the decades as I have been more and more influenced by the work of complexity theorists. I've come to see that the spelling system has to and does do more than maintain equilibrium. My view of the evolution of the system is fairly well laid out in "Orthography as an Evolving Complex System" in this Short Articles venue.

p. 7. Gould's notion of the reduction of variation as it applies to orthography is exemplified in considerable detail in "Standardization in Early English Orthography" also in Short Articles.

p. 19: re. adoption vs. adaption: Burchfield also presents a group of minimally integrated new adoptions: From Arabic: *hadith, naskhi, qasida, rafik*; from Chinese: *lapsang souchong, mah jong, pinyin, putonghua, qi;* from German: *bildungsroman, gestapo, gesundheit, hausfrau, langlauf;*

from Hebrew: *mizpah, mizrach, pilpul, sabra*; from Japanese: *noh, origami, pachinko, sashimi*; from Malay: *langsat, merdeka, nasi, ronggeng, satay*; from Russian: *nekulturny, samizdat, sastruga, sputnik*; from Yiddish: *pastrami, schlemiel*. [Robert Burchfield, *The English Language*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985, p. 48]

pp, 22-24: Spelling Pronunciation: From Burchfield, p. 41: "Other consonants have been reintroduced as a result of the convention of following the spelling. Thus from the mid-nineteenth century the dominance of [w] was restored in the pronunciation of words like *swore* (cf. *sword*) and *woman* (cf. *ooze* f. OE. *wāse*); and, in unstressed syllables, *Edward*, *Ipswich*, and *upward*, formerly often 'Ed'ard', etc. The silent <w> can still be observed in *towards* when it is pronounced [without [w]] . . . and *untoward* when it is pronounced [without [w]]
. . . . Many other words now show the pronunciation of consonants that before 1776 were often silent, e.g. *husband*, *mastiff*, *soldier*, *falcon*, and *pavement*. Similarly the glide [j] [= our [y]], formerly assimilated to a preceding [d] as in *immediate* and *idiot* (thus [dzh] [= [j]), reverted to [dj] [Our [dy]] in the course of the nineteenth century".

p. 30: Minimum and Maximum Simplicities: Burchfield (p. 145) speaks of the problems posed by returning to the minimum simplicity of a purely phonetic spelling system: " . . . if one were to attempt to impose a universally acceptable spelling system in all English-speaking areas now, local phonetic differences would lead to wide variations: for example, all words with medial -t- would need to be respelt with -d- in the United States and parts of Canada (*medaphysical, split the *adom, and many areas would need a symbol <æ> in words like *dance* to distinguish it from RP . . . . Variation in the pronunciation of diphthongs and triphthongs would produce a nightmarish array of distinctive symbols. The amount of [t]-ness at the end of the word *chants* (as against *chance*) would require a different variety of <t> from that in *chant* or *chat*."

Chapter 2: The Explication of Written Words. This chapter also seems basically solid, though over the years most of the issues raised here have grown increasingly complex and detailed. See especially among the Short Articles "On Explication: Rationale, Method, Open Questions."

p. 48. Array 2-7. The word *epaulet* <u>e4+paul1+et]1</u> contains this initial

particle <e> with the <s> having been lost back in French: It comes from Latin *spatula* "shoulder blade," which led to French *épaulette* "little shoulder." *Epaulet* is closely related to *espalier*, also from Latin *spatula*, but becoming Italian *spalliera* "shoulder support" and then *espalier* in French.

p. 52, ¶4: If I were to write this paragraph today, I'd leave out everything except the first sentence, with one short addition: "Orthographic explication is explication in the older sense of the word: it is a folding out of the simpler written forms and processes [and relationships] folded into a more complex word."

p. 69. This discussion of expectations is based on the idea that a sense of form arises from expectations that are frustrated for a time but finally satisfied. I first heard the idea, I think, from Kenneth Burke.

p. 74, 3,2,2,1, ¶2. Another instance would be the [lkt] in *mulct* "a fine or fee."

p. 76, 3.2.3. Another holdout to the initial doublet rule is *contrapposto* [contra+ppost+o].

p. 77, 3.2.5. Instances include *chaffinch* chaff+finch, *shellac* shel*l*+lac. In spite of the opening sentence's restriction to consonants,the Triplet Rule also applies with vowels: *weer* wee*é*+er]02 and *weest* wee*é*+est] "more and most wee," *seer* see*é*+er]01 "one who sees," *peed* "the past of to pee" – and apparently in the possible *peer* pee*é*+er]01, "one who pees." The Lexis database posits a suffix -*y*]4 as a variant of -*ly*]1 to avoid the <l> deletions in adverbs like *drolly, dully, fully, illy, shrilly*, and *stilly.*

pp. 77-79, 3.2.6. The issue of doublets within larger clusters and concatenations is even more of a tangle than is suggested by its treatment here. Other instances appear to include *eighty* eigh*t*+ty] and *eighteen* eigh*t*+teen, *dwelt* dwel*l*+t], *spelt* spel*l*+t], *spilt* spil*l*+t] and *spilth* spil*l*+th]. The prefix [*trans*- is involved in the holdouts *transsegmental, transsubjective*, and *transsexual. Transshape, transship,* and *transsonic* have the more regular *transhape, tranship, transonic*, with the extraneous <s>'s deleted. *W3* also shows *trans-sonic.*

Bacchanal is from Bacchus, the Greek god, whose name in Greek was βακχυς (= Bakkhus). *Buddha* "enlightened" is from the past participle of the

Sanskrit *bodhati* "to awake, know."

p. 80, 3-13. Paquita Boston pointed out to me that the explication of *pastime* should be pas$+time, not pasʄ+time.

p. 81, final ¶. There are many more instances of <ii> than this sentence suggests. In the Lexis database filtering Lexis to Word contains "*ii*" returns *alibiing, congii, coniine, coniines, denarii, foliicolous, gastrocnemii, genii, gobiid, nauplii, piing, radii, reduviid, reduviids, sartorii, saturniid, saturniids, senarii, septenarii, shanghaiing, shiitake, skiing, splenii, taxiing, teiid, teiids, torii, triiodothyronine, triiodothyronines, waterskiing* !

p.86, 3.4.3.1. We do have *gaily* and gaiety, both with the <y> to <i> change with a vowel immediately preceding the <y>. But each has a less common but more regular variant: *gayly, gayety*. We also have *voluntarism* and *voluntaryism* with overlapping senses: Both refer to a reliance on voluntary workers, but *voluntarism* also refers to the doctrine that will is the basic factor, both in the universe and in human conduct.

p. 86, 3.4.3.2. Since I no longer give priority to explicating to primes, this discussion of holdouts needs a replacement for *jurist*, which is discussed in a different and contradictory way in "On Explication" at '4. Knowing when to explicate to silent final <e> deletions' in Short Articles. There is also a contradiction between what is said here and the analysis at p. 65, ¶2, which should lead to a complete rethinking of the question of holdouts.

In Britain and America *pricey* pricȼ+ey]1 is the preferred spelling, though *pricy* pricȼ+y]1 is a common variant. Neither form is a holdout. And both can lead regularly to *pricily*, while *pricey* leads to *priceyness.*

p. 94. Logic calls for a CV# Rule somewhere in here: maybe something like "The final vowels <i, o, u> preceded by a consonant are regularly long. The final vowels <y, i> will spell [ī] if stressed, [ē] if unstressed. Final <o> regularly spells [ō]. Final <u> will regularly spell [ū] or [yū]. Final <e> is usually silent, but in two-letter words like *be* and *me* it spells [ē]. But final <a> will never be long.

p. 117, final ¶. *Rhetoric* would fit into this discussion of words from French.

p. 118, ¶3. Another example is *toxemic,* paralleling *phonemic*.

p. 122, 5-17 and 5-18. Also involved here in different ways are the verbs *cherish, perish, nourish, flourish* and the nouns *fetish, parish, radish.*

p. 125, 6-3. *Silence* shouldn't be in this array: It is a French adoption.

p. 127, 6.4.1. Due to conservative analogy, the Stress Frontshift Rule applies to many longer derivatives: *Scholar* » *scholarly*, *scholarliness*, etc. And the rule applies to some trisyllables from French: *consider, continue,* etc.

p. 128, 6-6. The *OED* describes *onyx* as of mixed origins – partly French, partly Latin.

p. 133, 7.1.1. A dramatic example of the Old English Third Syllable Rule is *midwifery* with a short <i> derived from *midwife* with a long <i>.

p. 146-47. Another more or less holdout is the Irish *pishoge* [pishōg], though it was originally spelled <pishog> when it entered English in the 19th century. The variants <pishoge> and <pishogue> appear at about that same time. In 1998 in T. P. Dolan's *Dictionary of Hiberno-English*, it is spelled <pishog>.

p. 148, 8.1.6. *Rille, rill* is from German *Rille*. In German *rille* would be [rilə], which would rapidly become [ril] in English, leading to the more regular variant *rill*.

p. 149, 8.1.6.1. An interesting subset of this is the French pair *locale, morale*, which stress on the second syllable, contrasting with *local, moral*. *Rationale*, contrasting in stress with *rational*, actually comes from late Latin, but was apparently confused by analogy with *locale* and *morale*.

p. 156, 8.2.1. *Matey* is now explicated maté1+ey]2*,* making it not a holdout. Similarly, *pineal* explicates to pin6+eal] and *roseate* to ros1+eate]. However, *plebeian* would be a holdout: plebe1+ian]. On *pricey, pricy* see p. 86.

p. 157, 8.3. We also have the possible explication of *gluey* as glué+ey]1, which is not via simple addition. And there are the variants *cliquey, cliquy.*

p. 158, 8-28 Anther example: *joey*, though the explication is suspect, since

the word comes from the Aboriginal *joè.*

p. 174, 9.5.1. The statement "there are no known cases of nonregular twinning" is a bit ambitious: *Johnny* John+n+y]2 is odd because <oh> is a vowel digraph rather than unigraph. *W3* says at *awful* "sometimes *awfuller, awfullest*" but nothing about *awfuler, awfulest*. Similar at *frightful, fruitful.*

p. 174, 9.5.2. The variants with no twinning: *combated, combatted; combating, combatting*; and with no twinning: *combatant*; *chagrined, chagrining*. If *gelable* is explicated to a complex gel+able], it is nonregular; but if it is treated as a compound gel+able, it is regular since compounds do not regularly involve twinning (see *AES*, p. 156, final ¶ for more on <able>. *Chic, chicer, chicest* are only apparent holdouts since <i> is spelling a long vowel.

p. 182, 10.3.2. Not exactly a holdout, but an unusual deletion occurs when [*ex-* concatenates with some stems starting with <s>: *execute* [ex+s̸ec3+ute], clearly a simplifying. Instances occur in 147 other words in Lexis when you filter to Word to Explication contains "*[[]ex+s̸*".

p. 190, 10-22. Also *agree* [ad̸+gree and 15 other words in Lexis with Explication containing "*[ad̸+g[a-z]*".

p. 195, ¶3. *Ogganition* should be *oggannition*.

p. 197, 10.9. In *assoil* and its inflections the <b> in [*ab-* assimilates to <s>: [ab̸+s+soil.

p. 203, 11.1.2. In *AES* I recognize only two short <o> sounds – [ä] and [ȯ], as in *cot* and *caught.* Later I came to feel that there should be three – in addition to the two above an [ŏ], which was conflated in *AES* with [ä]. Which gives us [ŏ] as in *lost* in addition to [ä] in *father* and [ȯ] in *caught*. In the CommonWords database these are [o1], [o3], [o4] respectively. For more on all of this, see the final section 'Low Back Vowels' in "Notes on the Vowel Analysis in CommonWords" elsewhere in the Short Articles venue.

pp. 204-06: On Low Back Vowels: Burchfield also provides examples of the instability of the low back vowels in such words as *jaundice*, *launch*, *laundry*; *cloth*, *cross*, *lost*, and *off.* [*The English Language*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985, p. 41]

p. 212, ¶4. The letter <u> is treated as a consonant when it follows <q> whether it spells [w] or not. In early French <qu> was consistently [kw], but in the 11th and 12th centuries [kw] often simplified to [k], though the simplification was later in the Anglo-Norman spoken in Britain. For more on the vowel-consonant issue see "Sometimes a Vowel Is Not a Vowel, and Sometimes a Consonant Is" and "On Vowels and Consonants — Or, All You Ever Wanted to Know, But . . ." in this Short Articles venue.

p. 215, 12.3. *Guimpe* "part of a woman's apparel" has an unusual <ui> spelling of short <a>. *Guimpe* also has a variant pronunciation with short <i> and a variant simplified spelling *gimp. Sarsparilla* has short <a> spelled <ar>, though it has a variant pronunciation with the <r> sounded.

p. 219, 13.3.2. The words in arrays 13.6 – 13.8 have a wide range of source spellings. Just looking at those from Old English: Many come from OE <ǣ> (*breadth, dread, meadow, ready, sweat, weapon . . .*); somewhat fewer from OE <ēa> (*bread, deaf, death, threat . . .*); somewhat fewer yet from OE <eo> *heaven* and OE <ēo> *abreast*. Several others come from French.

p. 220, 13.4. Also [e] = <a> in *any*.

p. 227, 14-12. Also *typp* "a unit of yarn size" and *flysch* "a geological formation."

p. 228, 14.4. In CommonWords there are 89 instances of [i]=<a>, as in *average, manage, senator, voyage*. And three instances of [i]=<ia>: *carriage, marriage, miscarriage*.

p. 229, 14.4.5, 14-16. [i]=<ie> shows up in other words beside *sieve*, though weakly stressed in each: *handerchief, mischief.*

p. 231. See the note herein at p. 203, 11.1.2.

p. 236, 15.3.1.1. The <aw> spelling of [ȯ] occurs initially in *awe, awful, awl, awn*.

p. 247, 17.2. A very minor spelling of [u] is <wo> in *twopence,* a variant of *tuppence*.

p. 255, 18.3.2. Since this analysis of <gh> in *AES* I've come to treat <gh> in such cases as a diacritic, marking long vowels, especially long vowels spelled with vowel digraphs. For more on this, see *Spelling for Learning*, pp. 76-77, especially Table 5.1.

p. 254, 18.3. I'm not sure what to make of this apparent minor spelling of long <a>: *halfpenny, halfpennies, halfpence*. I find it hard to treat the consonant digraph <lf> as part of a spelling of a vowel. Silent letters, I guess, remain the last refuge of true renegades.

p. 257. One pronunciation of *foehn* has [ā] = <oeh>.

p. 267, 19.3.1, ¶ 3. The proper names *Neil, Sheila,*and *Keith* have /ē/ spelled <ei>, as does *monteith* "a type of punch bowl," probably named for one *Monteith*, a 17th century eccentric Scotsman. Notice that all of these do violence to the <i>-before-<e> jingle. Other instances: *keister* "the buttocks" and *deil*, Scots for "devil."

pp. 274-5, 20-10, ¶ five. For more on the digraph <gh> see Spelling for Learning pp. 76-77.

p. 275, 20-13. <nt> and <nth>, as in *pint* and *ninth*, should be added to this list of consonant clusters.

p. 279, 20.3. Another minor spelling of /ī/ is the <ae> in *maestro*.

p. 279, 20.3.7. The Dutch word *schuyt* "a type of Dutch boat" has four different pronunciations, one of which has /ī/ spelled <uy>. The Dutch word *duiker* "a type of antelope" has /ī/ spelled <ui>.

p. 282, 21.7. This list should probably not include *ratio*, which is better treated as a case of /ō/ spelled <io>.

p. 285, 21.3. The list of holdouts should include *pharaoh* with /ō/ spelled <aoh>.

p. 286, 21.3.3. The proper name *Roosevelt* has /ō/ spelled <oo>, though it has a variant pronunciation with /ū/.

p. 287, 21.4. This summary should have included <oa> as the second

major spelling of /ō/, with 39 instances in CommonWords, including *approach, boast, cloak, float, groan, loan, moan, oak, reproach, soak, soap, throat, toast.*

p. 290, 22.3.2. A nonregular VC# spelling of [ū] occurs in *gul* "a motif in Oriental rugs."

p. 291, 22.4. Minor spellings of [ū] occur in *Tuesday* with a medial <ue> and in *snoek* "a type of fish" with a medial <oe>.

p. 296, 22-17. Also *neum(e)* "a notation in plainsong."

p. 291, 22.4.5. An extension of <eu>: In *lieu* and *lieutenant* [ū] = <ieu>.

p. 300, 23.2.4. This sentence should not include *suitable* and should restrict *nuisance* to a variant pronunciation, but should add *vacuum* with [yū] = <uu>.

p. 307, "Vowels before /r/." A long time ago a pre-publication reviewer maintained that this chapter wasn't worth the trouble because users of the language would automatically adjust for the different pronunciations. I'm not sure I agree with – or even understand – his explanation, but after all these years I've come to agree with his conclusion – that the chapter is not worth the trouble. But in my case it's because after all these years I've never found a good use for any of the points made in the chapter nor have heard from or of anyone who has.

p. 334, 26.3.2. In *shepherd* [p] is spelled <ph>. *Hiccup* has the variant spelling *hiccough*, which is normally pronounced with a final [p], leading to the odd correspondence [p]=<gh>.

See also p. 390, 28-40.

p. 334, ¶4. Notice how the situation with *subpoena* parallels the assimilation of [*ob-* in words like *opportune* [ob̸+p1+port3+une]1 where the sound of the <b> is lost and assimilation changes the spelling.

p. 337, 26.3.3.7. *Puppet, puppy,* and *supper* do not belong here: Their <pp>'s are due to twinning.

p. 339, ¶2. There is more to the <dh> spelling of [d] than meets the eye in this paragraph: Lexis contains 17 words with word-initial <dh>: *dharma, dharna, dhole, dhoti, dhurra*, etc. There are also *lamedh* and *yodh* "the 12th and the 10th letters of the Hebrew alphabet." Also *sadhe, sadhu, sandhi*. The variant *saddhu* has <ddh>. There is also the Maltese *dhaisa* "a small boat" and *jodhpurs* "riding pants" from India.

p. 343, 26.5.2. Add *musth* "period of sexual activity among elephants," with the more regular *must*.

p. 345, ¶4. Again for more on the digraph <gh> see Spelling for Learning, pp. 76-77.

p. 346, ¶4. The spelling <tw> is also pronounced [tw] in the Scots *twa* "two."

p. 350, 27.2.2. *Mortgagor* has <g>=[j] before <o>, but also the more regular variant *mortgager*.

Burchfield mentions some replacements of once soft <g>'s with hard <g>'s -- for example, "the replacement of a soft g in *gynecology* by a 'hard' one (until c. 1900 initial soft <g> only; till about 1930 optionally hard or soft <g>; from c. 1930 hard <g> only)" [Robert Burchfield, The English Language, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985, p. 139].

p. 352. The final sentence should read "The only known holdouts to this rule are *egg* and the slang *igg* "ignore," whose <gg>'s can be explained via the Short Word Rule (see 3.5)."

p. 353, 27-8. *Wagon* does not belong in this array: It is from Dutch, not French. In the past it was often spelled *waggon*, and is still commonly so in England; the *OED* treats *wagon, waggon* as joint headwords.

p. 356, 27.3.2.1, Array 27-17 should contain *recce* [rĕˈ kē] "short for *reconnaisance*." A filter of Lexis returns more than 300 words whose explication contains <cc>, many of which spell [k]. of Other cases of twinned <cc>: *spec, specced, speccing*, also *spec'ed, spec'ing*; *tic, ticced, ticcing.*

p. 356, 27.3.2.2. Other instances of <kk>: *grok, grokked, grokking; lek, lekked, lekking; tekkie* "variant of *techie;* the Dutch *schokker* "a type of boat." Lexis contains 12 other instances: *akkum, chukka, chukkar, chukker, markka, pukka, quokka* and their plurals.

p. 357, ¶1 the list of [k] / [ch] pairs should include *dike, ditch*.

p. 358, ¶3: <cch> also occurs in *bacchanal, bacchanalia, bacchant, bacchante*.

p. 360. Array 27-26 should contain *acquaint*.

p. 362, 27.3.3.2. *Sacerdotal* has two pronunciations – one with <c>=[s], one with <c>=[k]. *Zincite* has <c>=[k] before <i>, clearly due to conservative analogy with the stem *zinc*. Similarly *talc* has *talced, talcing* though it also has the more regular variants *talcked, talcking*.

p. 364, 27.3.3.4. See the immediately preceding note.

p. 370, 27.3.3.13. Array 27-54 could have many other instances, including the past and present progressive inflections of *tarmac, mosaic, mimic, medevac* (which has the less regular variants *medevaced, medevacing, zinc, physic, magic, havoc, colic, garlic* (in *garlicky*).

p. 377, 28.1.4. This list should include *chivvy*, which has the variant *chivy.*

p. 378, 28.2.2. A true oddity: *pilaf(f)* "steamed rice dish" has the variant spelling *pilau*, which has the variant pronunciation [pĭ¯läfˈ], in which apparently we would have to say that [f] is spelled <u>! Perhaps the early identity of <u> and <v> and the voiced / voiceless relationship between [v] and [f] enters in here.

p. 383, 28.2.3.8. Other instances of <ff> due to twinning: *reffed, reffing, iffiness*. In 28-23 *offer* due to assimilation not VCCV.

p. 384, 28.3. In one pronunciation of *clothes, clotheshorse, clothesline, clothespin* the <th> is silent.

p. 385, 28.3.2. In the Portuguese *fado* "a sad song" [th] is spelled <d>.

p. 386, ¶3. Another holdout is *hyalithe* with a [th] preceding a silent final <e> (and in one pronunciation, a short <i>).

p. 390. Silent <h>: "Before 1776, as now, [h] was normally pronounced in native words that began with the letter <h> provided that the main stress fell at the beginning of the word, as in *house*, *heathen*. It was also commonly, though mistakenly, introduced in such circumstances in words which correctly began with a vowel, for example *able* pronounced [with initial [h]] . . . , and not only in uneducated speech. In words of French origin like *herb*, *hospital*, *hotel*, *humble*, and *humour*, the initial <h> was normally silent until about 1930, and then changed as the notion of the 'dropping of h' emerged and came under attack. In American English, though, *herb* is still usually pronounced without the initial [h] as a survival of the older rule" [Robert Burchfield, *The English Language*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985, p. 41].

p. 391, 29.1.2. In *ambsace* "the lowest possible roll of the dice" because of simplification [z] in our analysis is spelled <bs>. If we were consistent with our logic concerning simplifications, in the *clothes* words listed in p. 384, 28.3 we would say that [z] is spelled <thes>. The notion of simplification needs some further thought.

p. 394, 29-8. Also *zyzzyva* "an African weevil."

p. 399, 29.2.2.3. Also *Switzerland*.

p. 399, ¶4. A holdout to this rule, though just barely, is *chestnut.*

p. 399, 29.2.2.3. Other minor spellings: [s] = <sz> in *szomolokite, szmikite, szaibelyite.*

p. 407, 30.2.1. Other minor spellings: In the Polish *grosz* "a unit of currency" and its plural *groszy* [sh]=<sz>. In the Afrikaans *sjambok* "a heavy whip" [sh]=<sj>. In *licorice* [sh]=<ce>.

p. 408, 30-2. Also *flysch* "a geological formation."

p. 411, ¶2. The letter <x> enters into the palatalized spelling of [sh] in the cluster [ksh] in a number of words, including *anxious, complexion,*

connexion, crucifixion, deflexion, flexion, fluxion, inflexion, noxious, obnoxious, reflexion, transfixion.

p. 416, 30-19. Add *cloture.*

p. 416, 30-20. Add *mantua* "a woman's garment."

p. 417, ¶4. *Laryngoscope* has a variant pronunciation with <g>=[j] before <o>.

p. 418, 30.4.2. Add *nudzh* "a complainer or nag" with [j]=<dzh> and *arpeggio* and *exaggerate* with [j]=<gg>.

p. 422, 30.5.2.1. Add the French *plage* "a sandy beach" and *gite* "a vacation retreat" and the Hungarian *vizsla* "a breed of dog."

p. 425, ¶3. In last sentence add *dumfound*, a variant of *dumbfound*.

p. 432, 31.3.1.4. Add *puisne* [pyūˈnē] with [n]=<sn>.

p. 433, line 1: Add *cnemial*.

p. 435, 31.4.1, line 3: A holdout: *anxiety*, with [ŋ]=<n> before [z].

p. 436, 31.4.2.3. Add *jingoism*.

p. 436, 31.4.2.4. Add *abranchiate*.

p. 444, 32.2.2.5. Add at end: Word-final syllabic <l> occurs in several Nahuatl words, like *atlatl* "a throwing stick," *axolotl* "a reptile," *mizquitl* "mequite," *Quetzalcoatl* "a plumed serpent god," *teonanacatl* "a type of fungus."

p. 457, 33.2.1. Add *quinoa* with [w]=<o>*, coif* [w]=<oi>*, bourgeois* [w]=<eoi> or <eois>*.* Maybe another job for a silent <s>, due to the attempt to retain the French pronunciation.

p. 459, 33.3.2. The first sentence here is simply wrong and flat contradicts the description of the [y]-glide in 33.3. CommonWords returns 32 words

with initial <u> spelling [yū], including *ukulele, unicorn, union, unique, united, universe, use, usual, Utah*, uterus, utopia. In *planh* [plänˈyə] "a lament" [yə]=<h>.

p. 462, ¶2. The Lexis and CommonWords databases are intended to provide a catalogue of elements and a large sample of explicated words. The teaching of English literacy in ¶4 is also discussed in the Short Articles and Basic Speller venues.