

ACCENT

The main accent is shown by the mark ' , usually placed at the end of the stressed syllable; but, division into syllables being arbitrary in English, positions for the accent that would disguise the pronunciation are avoided; thus *stār'ŷ* but *čā'rrŷ*, *lōc'al* but *vělo'cīŷ*, *ōv'er* but *co'ver* (kū-), *mūdd'ŷ* but *mūd'dle*. The placing of two accents on a word means either (a) that the two marked syllables are equally stressed, as in *wīll'ŷ-nīll'ŷ*, or (b) that among good speakers the one accentuation has as many adherents as the other (so *běll'icōse'*, *vīv'isēc'tion*), or (c) that the stress varies according to position in the sentence as explained in the dictionary article -ED. In the thousands of compounds given under their first elements among the alphabetically arranged combinations, accent is thus shown: if there is no hyphen separating the parts, the accent is always given (*back'bone*, *backstairs'*); if there is a hyphen, the regular usage is for the first of the compounded words to be stressed, and no accent is then given (so *oak-apple*); if the stress falls, contrary to this rule, on the second component, it is marked (*dead-beat'*); if the stress is variable, each part has an accent (*well'-inten'tioned*).

PRONUNCIATION WITHOUT RESPELLING

All the further information necessary for the pronunciation of any word or part of a word that is not respelt is contained in the following six paragraphs; the assumptions made in these hold unless the contrary is shown in brackets.

1. Any letter or combination in the Phonetic Scheme has the value there shown; e.g., *aw* as in *awl*, not as in *award* (*awōrd'*); and *gīnger*, *līnger*, would be required to rhyme with *singer* unless *gīnger* were followed by (-j-), and *līnger* by (-ngg-).

2. The following additional symbols are used in the black type:

è = ĭ (*nāk'èd*, *rěly'*, *cōll'ège*, *priv'èt*)

īr, ūr, = ēr (*bīrth*, *būrñ*)

ŷ, ŷ, = ĭ, ĭ (*īmplŷ'*, *sūnn'ŷ*)

3. Final e unmarked is not indeterminate, but mute (*sāne*, *āc'tive*; cf. *rě'cipé*, *dīlěttān'tè*).

4. A doubled consonant is pronounced as single (*sīll'ŷ*, *mānn'er*, *būtt'er*), not as in *cōl'ly* (-l-lī) or *thīn'něss* (-n-n-).

5. The following combinations and letters have the values shown:

Vowels

ae = ē (aegis)

al = ā (pain)

air = ār (fair)

au = aw (maul)

ay = ā (say)

ea, ee, = ē (mean, meet)

ear, eer, = ēr (fear, beer)

eu, ew, = ū (feud, few)

le = ē (thief)

ler = ēr (pier)

oa = ō (boat)

ou = ow (bound)

oy = oi (coy)

Consonants

c is 'hard' and = k (cob, cry, talc), but

c before e, i, y, is 'soft' and = s (ice, icy, city)

dg = j (judgement)

g before e, i, y, is 'soft' and = j (age, gin, orgy)

n before k, 'hard' c, q, x, = ng (zinc, uncle, tank, banquet, minx)

ph = f (photo)

qu = kw (quit)

tch = ch (batch)

x = ks (fox)

Thus in *gēm* the pronunciation of *g* is not marked because it comes under the rule above: 'g before e, i, y, is "soft" and = j'; but *gēt* is followed by (g-) to show that here exceptionally *g* before e is 'hard' as in *go*.

6. The following terminations have the values shown:

-age = -ij (garbage)

-sm = -zm (atheism, spasm)

-ate = -it or -at (mandate)

-tion = -shon (salvation)

-ey = -ī (donkey)

-ture = -cher as well as -tūr, esp. in common words.

-ous = -us (furious)

ETYMOLOGY

The etymologies shown in square brackets at the end of an article are based on C. T. Onions's *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*. They are restricted to essentials and have in view especially the immediate source of the word.

This is a reversal of the policy, adopted in previous editions, of referring words to their ultimate origin. This is often so remote in form and meaning from the word to which it relates as to be of little or no help to the reader. Thus *austere*, instead of being referred to its 'ultimate origin' [Gk *auō* dry], is in the present edition explained as [F f. L *austerus*], which gives the immediate source and takes this back to a Latin word of almost identical form. Similarly, *bankrupt* [It. *banca rotta* BANK² broken] is more informative than [BANK, L *rumpo* break]; *conger* [F f. L *conger*] is preferable to [Gk], even if the Greek form, *goggros*, were given, and *crisis* [L f. Gk, = turning-point] is more illuminating than [Gk *krinō* judge].