

1

Dearest creature in creation,  
Study English pronunciation.  
I will teach you in my verse  
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse and worse.  
I will keep you, Susy, busy,  
Make your head with heat grow dizzy  
Tear in eye, your dress you'll tear,  
So shall I ! So hear my prayer.

3

Hear me say, devoid of trickery,  
Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,  
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,  
Exiles, similes, and reviles;  
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,  
Solar, mica, war and far;  
One, anemone, Balmoral,  
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;  
Gertrude, German, wind and mind,  
Scene, Melpomene, mankind.

5

Ivy, privy, famous; clamour  
And enamour rhymes with hammer.  
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,  
Doll and roll and some and home.  
Stranger does not rhyme with anger,  
Neither does devour with clangour.  
Souls but foul, haunt but aunt,  
Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant,  
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,  
And then singer, ginger, linger,  
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge,  
Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age.

2

Just compare heart, beard and heard,  
Dies and diet, lord and word,  
Sword and sward, retain and Britain,  
(Mind the latter how it's written).  
Now I surely will not plague you,  
With such words as plaque and ague  
But be careful how you speak.  
Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;  
Cloven, oven, how and low,  
Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.

4

Billet does not rhyme with ballet,  
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.  
Blood and flood are not like food,  
Nor is mould like should and would.  
Viscous, viscount, load and broad,  
Toward, to forward, to reward.  
And your pronunciation's OK  
When you correctly say croquet,  
Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,  
Friend and fiend, alive and live.

6

Query does not rhyme with very,  
Nor does fury sound like bury.  
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.  
Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.  
Though the differences seem little,  
We say actual but victual.  
Refer does not rhyme with deafer.  
Foeffer does, and zephyr, heifer.  
Mint, pint, senate and sedate;  
Dull, bull, and George ate late.  
Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,  
Science, conscience, scientific.

**7**

Liberty, library, heave and heaven,  
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.  
We say hallowed, but allowed,  
People, leopard, towed, but vowed.  
Mark the differences, moreover,  
Between mover, cover, clover;  
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,  
Chalice, but police and lice;  
Camel, constable, unstable,  
Principle, disciple, label.

**9**

Compare alien with Italian,  
Dandelion and battalion.  
Sally with ally, yea, ye,  
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.  
Say aver, but ever, fever,  
Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.  
Heron, granary, canary.  
Crevice and device and aerie.

**11**

Pronunciation -- think of Psyche!  
Is a paling stout and spikey?  
Won't it make you lose your wits,  
Writing groats and saying grits?  
It's a dark abyss or tunnel:  
Strewn with stones, stowed, solace, gunwale,  
Islington and Isle of Wight,  
Housewife, verdict and indict.

**8**

Petal, panel, and canal,  
Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal.  
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair,  
Senator, spectator, mayor.  
Tour, but our and succour, four.  
Gas, alas, and Arkansas.  
Sea, idea, Korea, area,  
Psalm, Maria, but malaria.  
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean.  
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

**10**

Face, but preface, not efface.  
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.  
Large, but target, gin, give, verging,  
Ought, out, joust and scour, scouring.  
Ear, but earn and wear and tear  
Do not rhyme with here but ere.  
Seven is right, but so is even,  
Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,  
Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk,  
Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

**12**

Finally, which rhymes with enough?  
Though, through, plough, or dough, or cough?  
Hiccough has the sound of cup.  
My advice is to give up! / give it up!