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Opening extract from  
**School Spelling Dictionary**

Written by  
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**Barrington Stoke**

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## Preface

### To the Teacher

After the publication of the revised and updated *Dictionary of Perfect Spelling*, Barrington Stoke has had numerous requests for a school version.

In my work as Head of English in a school for boys with specific learning difficulties, I continually witnessed the frustrations of children trying to use a conventional dictionary to help with their spelling. More often or not they gave up and spelt the word phonically. In the *School Spelling Dictionary*, following Christine Maxwell's inspirational idea, they can do just this.

But when they check their phonic spelling, if they find the word in **red**, it is wrong and beside it they will find the correct spelling in black.

For example: **eny** any

They can then locate the correct spelling and check any derivatives.

For example: any ~body ~how ~one  
any ~thing ~way ~where

The tilde(~) tells the user to just add on the ending to the root word.

Irregular plurals are given.

For example: wolf wolves

Verb endings are given in full.

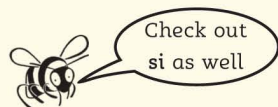
For example: fly [flies flying flew flown]

Comparative adjectives are spelt out.

For example: funny funnier funniest

If they have difficulty finding a word, there are hints as to where else to look.

For example: Under ci you will find



I have included some useful spelling rules which need to be taught and learnt. I found Gill Cotterell's Phonic Reference cards published by LDA an excellent resource.

### To the Speller!

The English language is very hard for the person who hates spelling because groups of letters can make more than one sound. Even spell checkers find it hard! However, 86% of words do stick to rules and the tips on pages v to vii are there to help you. We call the other 14% of words 'irregular' because they do not follow rules or patterns and you need to find ways to remember them.

Pages viii to x will give you some ideas of ways to learn them.

We all need to spell words the same way to make sure that we can write what we want to say and so everyone who reads it can understand exactly what we mean.

### Some Useful English Spelling Rules –

It does help to learn them!!

1. Remember vowels (a e i o u) can make a short sound or a long sound (like their name).  
For example ā as in ape [long – its name], ă as in apple [short – its sound].  
'y' sometimes acts as a vowel as well, e.g. 'cry' and 'rhythm'.
2. Have fun with words! Learn to build words from the root word, use **prefixes** (bits you add on the front) and **suffixes** (bits you add on the end).  
For example: stand, understand, understanding, misunderstanding
3. 'q' always has 'u' with it and is written 'qu' like in 'quiz' and 'question'.
4. No word ends in 'v' **except** 'spiv' (a flashy man). Often 'e' comes after 'v' to prop it up like in 'active' and 'native'.



achieve achievement

[achieving achieved]

acid acid rain

Check out  
acc as well**acident** accident**acksel** axel \*[jump]

axil \*[leaf]

axle \*[wheel]

acne

acorn

**acownt** account

acre acreage

acrobat acrobatic

across

**acseperate** accelerate**acsent** accent**accept** accept**acshun** action**acsident** accident

act [acting acted]

**actchely** actually**acter** actor

action action-packed

active actively

**activetys** activities

activity activities

actor actress actresses

actual actually

**acurate** accurate**acuse** accuse

acute acutely

ad \*[advert] add \*[sum]

Adam's apple

adapt [adapting adapted]

adaptable

add \*[sum] ad \*[advert]

[adding added]

**addapt** adapt**addenoys** adenoids

adder

addict [addicted] addiction

addition \*[sum] edition \*[copy]

additional

additive

**addoor** adore

address addresses

[addressing addressed]

**ade** aid

adenoids

**ader** adder

adhesive

**adishun** addition

adjective

adjust adjustable

**admier** admire

admiral

admire [admiring admired]

admiration

admit [admitting admitted]

**admyre** admire

adopt adoption

adorable

adore [adoring adored]

**adress** address

adult

advance

[advancing advanced]

advantage

**advencher** adventure

adventure adventurous

adverb

advertise

[advertising advertised]

advertisement

advice \*[a tip] advise \*[suggest]

advise \*[suggest] advice \*[a tip]

[advising advised]

**advurb** adverb**advurtise** advertise**ael** ale**aer** air

aerial



aerodrome

aeroplane

aerosol

**aery** airy

afar \*[long] affair \*[event]

**afect** affect \*[alter]

effect \*[result]

affair

affect \*[alter] effect \*[result]

affection affectionate

affectionately

**affekshun** affection

afford affordable

**affraede** afraid**afid** aphid

afloat

**aford** afford

afraid

after

afternoon

afterwards

**aftr** after

again

against

**agane** again



bulk bulky  
 bull bullock  
 bull ~dog ~fight ~finch  
 bulldoze bulldozer  
 [bulldozing bulldozed]  
 bullet  
 bulletin  
 bullion  
 bully [bullying bullied]  
 bully bullies  
 bulrush bulrushes  
**bully** bully  
 bumble [bumbling bumped]  
 bumblebee  
**bumerang** boomerang  
 bump [bumping bumped]  
 bumpy bumpier bumpiest  
 bun bunfight  
 bunch bunches  
 bundle [bundling bundled]  
 bung [bunging bunged]  
 bungalow  
 bungee  
**bungel** bungle  
**bungie** bungee  
 bungle [bungling bungled]  
**bunglo** bungalow  
**bunjie** bungee

bunk  
 bunker  
 bunny bunnies  
 Bunsen burner  
**bunsh** bunch  
 buoy \*[float] boy \*[male]  
 burble [burbling burbled]  
**burch** birch  
**burd** bird  
 burden [burdening burdened]  
**burgeld** burgled  
 burger  
 burglar  
 burglary burglaries  
 burgle \*[rob] bugle \*[horn]  
 burial  
 burly burlier burliest  
 burn [burning burned]  
 burnt  
 burp [burping burped]  
 burrow \*[dig] borrow \*[loan]  
 bursar bursary bursaries  
 burst [bursting burst]  
**bursurk** berserk  
**burth** berth \*[bunk]  
 birth \*[born]  
 bury \*[cover] berry \*[fruit]  
 bus buses



**busel** bustle  
 bush bushes  
 bushy bushier bushiest  
 business businesses  
 business ~man ~woman  
 busker busking  
**bussel** bustle  
 bustle [bustling]  
 busy busier busiest  
 but \*[however] butt \*[hit]  
**buten** button  
**buter** butter  
**butie** beauty \*[lovely]  
 booty \*[loot]  
**butiful** beautiful  
 butler  
**buton** button  
 butter buttery  
 butter ~cup ~fly ~scotch  
 buttock buttocks  
 button buttonhole

**buty** beauty \*[lovely]  
 booty \*[loot]  
 buy \*[shop] bye \*[goodbye]  
 by \*[near]  
 buy [buying bought]  
 buzz [buzzes buzzing buzzed]  
 buzzard  
**bwuty** beauty  
 by \*[near] buy \*[shop]  
 bye \*[goodbye]  
**byceps** biceps



**bycicul** bicycle  
 bye \*[goodbye] buy \*[shop]  
 by \*[near]  
**byer** buyer  
**bynoculars** binoculars  
 bypass bypasses  
 [bypassing bypassed]  
 byte \*[data] bite \*[teeth]



confess confession  
[confessing confessed]  
**confest** confessed  
confetti  
confide confidence  
[confiding confided]  
confident confidently  
confidential confidentially  
confine [confined]  
confirm confirmation  
[confirming confirmed]  
confiscate confiscation  
[confiscating confiscated]  
conflict  
**confrence** conference  
confront confrontation  
[confronting confronted]  
confuse confusion  
[confusing confused]  
**confyde** confide  
**congrachulate** congratulate  
congratulate  
[congratulating congratulated]  
congratulations  
conical  
conifer coniferous  
**conjer** conjure  
conjunction

conjure conjuror  
[conjuring conjured]  
**conkave** concave  
conker *\*[nut]* conquer *\*[win]*  
**conkrete** concrete  
**conkussed** concussed  
**conkwest** conquest  
connect connection  
[connecting connected]  
conquer *\*[win]* conker *\*[nut]*  
conqueror conquest  
conscience  
conscientiously  
conscious consciously  
**conseat** conceit  
consecutive consecutively  
**conseel** conceal  
**conseive** conceive  
consensus  
consent [consenting consented]  
**consentrashun** concentration  
**consenrate** concentrate  
**consept** concept  
consequence  
**consern** concern  
**consert** concert  
conservation

conservative  
conservatory  
conserve [conserving conserved]  
**conshense** conscience  
**conshienshus** conscientious  
**conshus** conscious  
consider considerable  
[considering considered]  
considerate consideration  
**consise** concise  
consist [consisting consisted]  
consistent consistently  
consolation prize  
console [consoling consoled]  
consonant  
conspiracy conspiracies  
constable  
constant  
constellation  
constipated constipation  
**construcshun** construction  
construct construction  
[constructing constructed]  
constructive constructively  
consult consultant  
[consulting consulted]  
consume consumer  
[consuming consumed]

**consurlashun** consolation  
**consurvashun** conservation  
**consurvativ** conservative  
**consurvatory** conservatory  
**consyoum** consume  
contact [contacting contacted]  
contagious  
contain container  
[containing contained]  
**contajus** contagious  
contaminate contamination  
[contaminating contaminated]  
**contane** contain  
contemplate contemplation  
[contemplating contemplated]  
contemporary  
contemporaries  
contempt  
content contentment  
contest contestant  
[contesting contested]  
context  
continent *\*[land mass]*  
Continent *\*[the]*  
continual continually  
continuation  
continue continuity  
[continuing continued]