

And some nobody liked.

Webster **everybody else**

determin determine

karakter character

bred bread

Well ... I think that might have helped.
Why has no one else tried?



And in Canada, ... we use some British and some American spellings.



appall

enroll

analyze

traveler

focused

defense

pretense



appal

enrol

analyse

traveller

focussed

defence

pretence



appall

enrol

analyse

traveller

focused

defence

pretense

Thank goodness I am not Canadian
... oh ... wait a minute!



Spelling reform



But what about spelling reform?

What about the idea of changing the spellings of words so that they become more “transparent?”

transparent: easily seen through, evident, obvious

from the Latin > transparens

trans (through) + parere (appear) = shine through



A transparent spelling system

... would mean that the letters we use to represent the sounds we speak would be consistent and predictable.

You mean *ch*
would always sound
like the *ch* in *chair*.



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I had a dream ...
stomach
was spelled *stomak*
and *machine*
was spelled
masheen.





We have seven different ways of writing
the ee sound:

tree these leaf field seize key machines

In a transparent spelling system we would pick
one way to represent the ee sound - for example:

tree thees leef feeld seez kee macheen?

I could get behind that.



One problem: the way words are pronounced changes over time.



For example - Rome:

In 1300, it rhymed with to me.

In 1600, it rhymed with room.

And now it rhymes with home.

Come to me
and we will go to Rome



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There is no room
on the ship to Rome



I'd rather be in Rome
than studying here at home



Another problem: the way we pronounce words changes over space.

For example - down:

In England, it often rhymes with yarn.

In Scotland, it often rhymes with moon.

In Canada, it often rhymes with crown.



Oh drat. oh darn
I drink ale
I fall down
what a tale



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I'd be over the moon
If you would come down
to the pub with me



I fell down
and hit my crown
- I am Canadian!



And people who live in the same place but come from different backgrounds and classes pronounce things differently.

Trah lah lah
We ah so
lah dɛ dah

We ah so
lovely

The rain in
Spain falls
mainly on
the plain



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What would be
really lovely
would be a
paid break

I wish that
bloody
rine would
fall on
'is 'ead



So ... which pronunciation do we choose for our spelling reform?



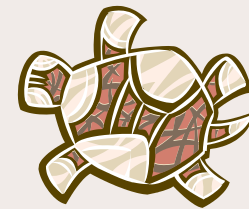
why.can't.spell by t.m. (link) 2015

We've seen how "visitors" and scholars brought words into English.

Isn't it time for
you *all* to be
going now?







Amen to that,
spoon lady.



We've seen how English came to be a mixture of Celtic, Latin, Germanic, Norse, French and Greek.



We have seen how the contributions of

- the Celts, 
- the Romans (and the Greeks), 
- the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, 
- the Vikings, 
- the Normans and the French 

have been valued differently at different times in the history of Britain.

And we've seen how certain forms and structures became "standard."

**As with most of human history
- this story is one of
accident and design,
power and privilege,
oppression and triumph.**



And as with most stories,

... what has been left out is at least as important as what has been included.

Everything we see
is a shadow
cast by that which we
do not see.



Martin Luther King Jr.

For most of history,
Anonymous
was a woman.



Virginia Woolf

And what about when the British started
“visiting” other people?



Hmm ...
where shall we go?



You guessed it ... they acted pretty much the same way as all those folks who invaded England.

Thanks
for the cup of tea (Chinese)
with sugar (Arabic)
and the chocolate (Nahuatl*)
yogurt (Turkish)

Thanks for letting me sleep on your cot
in your bungalow (Hindi)
so I wouldn't be blown away
by the hurricane (Carib*).
Thanks for letting me use
your anorak (Inupik*).





Some definitions:

Inupik is one of two dialects of the Inuit language; the other is Yupik. **Inuit** (singular, **Inuk** or **Inuq**; also, generally vulgarly, **Eskimo**) is a general term for a group of culturally similar indigenous peoples of the Arctic who descended from the Thule. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference includes Canadian Inuit and Inuvialuit, Greenland's Kalaallit people, Alaska's Inupiaq and Yupik people, and Russian Yupik.

The **Carib languages** are an indigenous language family of South America. Carib languages are widespread across northern South America, from the mouth of the Amazon River to the Colombian Andes. The 29 living Carib languages are divided into a northern branch (21 languages) and a southern branch (8 languages).

Nahuatl is still the most widely spoken Native American language in Mexico. Its 1.5 million speakers live mainly in the states of Puebla, Veracruz, Hidalgo, and Guerrero. Nahuatl belongs to the Uto-Aztecan language family, which also includes the languages spoken by the Comanche, Pima, Shoshone, Toltecs and other tribes of western North America. Nahuatl words adopted into English include "avocado", "chocolate", "coyote", "ocelot", "peyote", and "tomato".

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia (www.wikipedia.org)



But now it is English only...
(slavery and thievery).

Except for the looting (Hindi).

I think that guy
has been
smoking too much
hashish (Arabic).

Yeah...
he should just chill
on the sofa (Arabic)
and have a cup of
coffee (Arabic).

Why are we
speaking English?



As English-speakers
traded, invaded and raided around the world,

more and more people started speaking English or mixing
English with the other languages they spoke ...
... and adding and changing words, pronunciations,
spellings and grammar.



Old pirates yes they rob I
Sold I to the merchant ships
Minutes after they took I from the
Bottom less pit

But my hand was made strong
By the hand of the almighty
We forward in this generation triumphantly
All I ever had is songs of freedom
Won't you help to sing these songs of freedom
Cause all I ever had redemption songs,
redemption songs



**Redemption Song
by Bob Marley
of Jamaica**

**This history is just as long
and complex as what went before.**

And we are living in it now.

