

## EXERCISES

1. The following texts come from magazines, newsletters and emails from different clubs and societies. For items 35-40, match the texts with the appropriate club or society (options A-G). There is one option you do not need.

<b>A.</b> reading club	<b>A</b>	<b>B.</b> photography club	<b>A</b>	<b>C.</b> drama club	<b>A</b>	<b>D.</b> cookery club	<b>A</b>	<b>E.</b> A horse riding club	<b>F.</b> A sub-aqua club	<b>G.</b> A football club
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<b>1</b>	As the Governing body for underwater activities in the UK, the club provides a training programme for divers and instructors and safety advice tailored to safe enjoyment of the sport in the UK and throughout the world.	
<b>2</b>	On Monday morning please arrive promptly with your pony tacked up by 9.00 a.m. You should leave the pony in your trailer, find out where you stable will be and in which ride you will be.	
<b>3</b>	The summer exhibition was once again a great success, and our thanks to all of you who sent in pictures or helped with the refreshments on the day. The winner of the 'Best portrait' competition was Jenny Wright, whose image of a shepherd under an olive tree was highly praised by all of the judges	
<b>4</b>	Just a quick reminder that our next meeting is at Anita Lawson's house, starting at 8 p.m. She has chosen the new Ian Rankin novel, so please make sure you've finished it so we can all contribute to the discussion. P.S. If anyone needs directions to Anita's, please get in touch.	
<b>5</b>	Thank you all for you hard work this term and your wonderful performance last night. We have had lots of very positive feedback, so well done. Rehearsals for the next play will begin in the first week of term, so in the meantime, have a great summer holiday.	
<b>6</b>	The youth team's game at Holbeach United has fallen foul of the weather after heavy rain in the region. The first team fixture at Kettering has also been postponed and the terrible summer this country is experiencing has led to scores of games being called off due to waterlogged pitches.	

2. Read the text and identify the new words for you

Both native English speakers and non-native speakers find the spelling of English one of its most difficult characteristics. The English spelling system is not based on a phonetic link

between sounds and letters, as is the spelling of Spanish and certain other languages. Instead, English spelling is affected by the historical development of the language. Some words are pronounced in several different ways; similarly, different combinations of letters can produce the same pronunciation.

The six different pronunciations of ough provide an outstanding example of the differences between spelling and pronunciation, as in bough, cough, thorough, thought, though, and rough. The spellings come from a time when gh represented a sound that was pronounced. Another difference is the many different spellings of the sh sound, as for example in anxious, fission, fuchsia, and ocean.

The link between sound and spelling in English is not phonetically exact for two main reasons. First, spelling changes did not keep pace with changes in the sound system after the development of printing and of conventions for spelling. For example, the k in knife and the gh in right come from the Middle English period (from about 1100 to about 1500), when they were pronounced as separate sounds. Second, there are some spelling conventions that are based on other languages. For example, during the 16th century the 'b' was inserted into the word doubt (formerly spelled doute). This reflected the Latin word, dubitare, even though the 'b' was not pronounced in English.

Two further influences contributed to the illogical system of spelling. When books began to be printed in England, the newly invented spelling system was undermined because nearly all the early London printers were foreign. They were usually paid by the line and often inserted additional letters into words to earn more. They regularly also added extra letters to the last word of a line to make the whole text look neater. Many of their spelling errors eventually became accepted English spellings. When Samuel Johnson wrote the first English dictionary in 1755, he did not try to reform the system or make it simpler. Instead, he based it on the printed material that was available at the time. As a result, most of the errors that were common at the time became accepted as correct.

There have been many attempts to reform English spelling. The author and playwright George Bernard Shaw proposed a completely new alphabet, but this had very limited success. American English has developed some of its own spelling conventions, largely as a result of the work of spelling reformer Noah Webster. Webster attempted to remove some of the irregularities from the English spelling system and distance American English from British English. Nevertheless, the system as a whole remains particularly complex, and English is widely regarded as having the worst spelling of any language in the world.

### **3. Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1 to 8**

#### **1. What has made English spelling so complicated?**

- A. It has more letters than sounds.
- B. Its history.
- C. Its similarities with Spanish.

#### **2. The example of the words ending in '-ough' is given to show that**

- A. spelling is less difficult than it appears.
- B. there is no reason for unusual spellings.
- C. the same letters can be pronounced in different ways.

**3. After the Middle English period**

- A. English pronunciation began to change.
- B. Latin became less important.
- C. spelling began to reflect the way people spoke.

**4. The unusual spelling of English words shows an influence of**

- A. change in the sound system only.
- B. printing conventions only.
- C. other languages as well.

**5. Printed books often contained unusual spellings because the printers**

- A. lived in London.
- B. added extra letters to get more money.
- C. mainly spoke Latin.

**6. In his dictionary, Samuel Johnson tried to**

- A. make spelling easier.
- B. correct the printers' errors.
- C. show how words were actually spelled.

**7. George Bernard Shaw and Noah Webster**

- A. were both successful playwrights.
- B. worked together in London.
- C. wanted to make spelling simpler.

**8. Overall, the writer seems to feel that English spelling is**

- A. amusing and interesting.
- B. unnecessarily complicated.
- C. clear and logical.

**4. Read the text, and decide which part of the text (A-G) refers to the statements (41-45) below. There are two options you do not need.**

<b>1</b>	This is a spot, where you can eat outdoors.	
<b>2</b>	Here you can find updated information on an every day basis.	
<b>3</b>	This is the starting point of a path, where you can enjoy works of art displayed outside	
<b>4</b>	This spot is particularly suitable for people with disabilities.	
<b>5</b>	This spot is particularly suitable for people with disabilities.	

**A. Nagshead Nature Reserve**

A small car park serves the Nature Reserve, which is a joint project with the RSPB. A daily bulletin board lets you know which species of birds may be seen in the locality.

**B. Wenchford**

The Blackpool Brook trickles through this picnic site which is very popular in the summer months when the oak trees provide dappled shade.

#### **C. Cyril Hart Arboretum**

Near Speech House, the collection started in 1910. There is a trail for the visually impaired and the level paths make the arboretum ideal for less able visitors and wheelchair users.

#### **D. Edge End**

On the north western edge of the forest, there are panoramic views of the surrounding countryside towards Wales. Access is up a steep rough path and is not suitable for everyone.

#### **E. Symonds Yat**

Rock Lots to see and do at this internationally famous point. Nearby cliffs soar above the valley of the River Wye 120m below. Opportunities to follow waymarked walks. Site of Iron Age fort.

#### **F. Speech House Woodland**

Almost opposite the most famous building in the Forest of Dean is the Speech House. It was built in 1676, by the King, as a 'court' where local people could have their say. You may join the circular Sculpture Trail here.

#### **G. Beechenhurst**

Formerly the site of Speech House colliery, it is now the ideal base for a family day out – adventure play area, flat games area, refreshments, gifts and information available at the Lodge.