

The Reformation American English Alphabet

**The
Europa
Reformation
Society**

“The simplification of spelling is not an unconscious process, inevitable without human effort. Every changed spelling now in general use [...] was once the overt act of a single writer who was [followed] at first by a small minority. If there is to be substantial improvement in the future, somebody must be willing to point the way, to set the example, to propose the next step in advance.”

- (1920) **Handbook of Simplified Spelling**

Table of Contents

Background	1
The Reformation American English Alphabet	4
The Reform	6
Future Work	17

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Background

English spelling is a tragedy. Its letters are but hints to sounds. Its spelling rules are but suggestions. Its natives unable to wield her correctly. Any future is but left to the whims of the heavens. It is a relic of misguided ideas and ancient spellings never brought to the present. Our governments and institutions have given up on the language without truly trying and thus they have given on their people. They claim reform impossible, yet they ignore how every other nation and language has done so. They say it not wanted, yet every native (and non-native) knows it broken. They say it is not worth the trouble, yet then when would it ever be? They say dialects make a single reform impossible, yet why should there be but a single written standard?

Thus is the need for a way forward. A path to finally rectify our language. A change for the now and not a vague hand waving to set the issue for generations down the line. From this flame of rebirth, stands The Reformation American English Alphabet (RAEA) or more commonly referred to as Reformed English. It stands not only as an

improvement for ourselves, but for our kin. A system that alas brings our written forms to stand alongside our spoken ones. A bold step forward with an eye to the future, and a grasp from whence we came.

The reason English has reached such a point to begin with is that its last real reform was in the 1600's. Which, even after, the spelling was still yet mocked for its disconnect from speech. Yet, much has changed since that time. Our command of the language ever twisting, and the forms it plays on our tongues ever more novel. And yet in the time since, the works of many scholars and various attempts to tie English into Ancient Greek and Latin have but further distorted her into paths illogical. While certainly, various small spelling changes have caught on since then, they are always extremely limited and essentially all forms are still used in practice (like *catalog* and *catalogue*).

To bring English forth to some cohesion is to ask the question: How cohesive? How much change are its people willing to bear? Should changes be dramatic and brazen, or nuanced and subtle? While subtlety is by far the easiest (socially, politically, and learnedly), it often does not truly address the issues (especially with something so broken). Conversely, brazen restructuring brings these true universal solutions, but suffers in the transition from society at large. Thus our Reformed English stands in that middle ground. Dramatic enough to bring vast improvements, yet similar enough to be quickly picked up. Whilst certainly not perfect, the perfect should never be the enemy of the good.

One of the large struggles surrounding reforms is the balance between phonology and morphology. A question of whether written language should be easy to read by ear, or easy to read by eye. A phonologically

leaning reform would aim to be written as near as it is spoken, while a morphological one would instead aim to maintain consistency amongst related words even if they are not read the same (such as *nation* and *national*). Like much of life, the keys lie in balance. The RAEA follows speech where it may, and maintains morphology when possible. Each word, spelling, and usage, evaluated on its own.

Yet there still looms the question of dialects. Dialects in their identitarian nature often drive proposed reforms to die. Currently English bears essentially one written standard across all her dialects. Any reform must then either grapple to try and maintain this or chose a single dialect to target. While a “neutral” standard makes much sense in the case of a single nation trying to maintain national identity and cohesion, this does not make sense in the case of English. English is spoken in many nations with robust populaces that are more than capable of supporting a language each their own. To try and fulfill the needs of so many distant and distinct peoples is but folly. Thus it is sensible for such a reform to target a single dialect, in this case American English. Now, American English itself truly is not a single dialect but a family of somewhat similar dialects. Certainly amongst these some will be more represented and others less in the reform, but regardless the end result will still be a drastic improvement against the status quo. Where this line exactly is to be drawn is as much a question of identity as it is practicality. Overall, American English should be understood as the English spoken in the Americas, thus encompassing both the United States and Canada.

While this reform guides the Americas, other nations will be left with a choice. That of whether to found their own written standards or follow another’s. If they choose their own standard, they then further forge

their own identity, but will be left in a smaller pool of native content. But, if they choose to follow a larger nation's they gain much more reach, albeit at arm's length of identity. Regardless which way they may lean, improvements would be wrought across all.

Having multiple written English standards is no different than having multiple spoken English dialects. The closer the dialects are, and thus the standards, the easier it will be for them to be mutually understood and so too the more distant the harder it will be. Reality and the written word will align. While some may worry of having to read multiple written standards, this is no different than living in a world where people speak different dialects (which is reality). Furthermore, between national standards there will inevitably be a path in which modern technology could automatically transcribe between the various ones for reader comfort.

In the end, reform is but impossible without it being realized by the public at large. Whether that be under the auspices of shifts from the culture of the people themselves or from under the guidance of the nations they inhabit. Regardless reform will be polarizing, and it will not be manifest without its bumps, but any steps in the right direction will be but leaps forward. This is a reform not aimed to reform the world of our ancestors, but to guide that of our kin and their untold generations forth...for is it is the language that they shall bear.

With that, we hope that the work we’ve done here inspires all that this dream is just on the horizon, if we but will it.

Älis wâz bîgining tuw git vejrî tajerd ôv siting baj her sister ón ðe bejnk, änd ôv häving nôþing tuw duw: wônc or twajs shí häd pípt intuw ðe buk her sister wâz ríding, bût it häd no piksjurz or kónversejsjônz in it, “änd wât iz ðe juws ôv â buk,” þót Älis “wiþówt piksjurz or kónversejsjônz?” Sow shí wâz kónsidering in her own majnd (äz wel äz shí kúd, for ðe hót dej mejd her fíl vejrî slípi änd stuwpid), weðer ðe plezjur ôv mejking â dejzichejn wud bí werþ ðe trôbl ôv giting úp änd piking ðe dejzíz, wen súdúnli â Wajt Râbit wiþ pink ajz rän klows baj her.

Dejr wâz nôþing sow vejrî remarkibl in ðät; nor did Älis þink it sow vejrî múch ówt ôv ðe wej tuw hír ðe Râbit sej tuw itself, “O dír! O dír! Aj shal bí lejt!” (wen shí þót it owver äfterwerdz, it ôkurd tuw her ðät shí ót tuw häv wônderd ät ðis, bût ät ðe tajm it al símd kwajt nätjurâl); bût wen ðe Râbit äksjuwâli tuk â wach ówt ôv its wejstkwtpókit, änd lukt ät it, änd ðen huríd ón, Älis startid tuw her fít, for it fläsht âkrós her majnd ðät shí häd never befor sín â räbit wiþ ajðer â wejstkwtpókit, or â wach tuw tejk ówt ôv it, änd burning wiþ kjuriósiti, shí rän âkrós ðe fíld äfter it, änd fortjúnâtlí wâz zúst in tajm tuw sí it póp dówn â larz räbithol únder ðe hez.

In ânôðer mowment dówn went Älis äfter it, never wônc kónsidering hów in ðe werld shí wâz tuw git ówt ägin.

De räbithol went strejt ón lajk â túnûl for sôm wej, änd ðen dipt súdúnli dówn, sow súdúnli ðät Älis häd nót â mowment tuw þink âbówt staping herself befor shí fównd herself faling dówn â vejrî díp wel.

Ajðer ðe wel wâz vejrî díp, or shí fel vejrî slowlí, for shí häd plentí ôv tajm äz shí went dówn tuw lúk âbówt her änd tuw wônder wât wâz gowing tuw häpin next. Ferst, shí trajd tuw lúk dówn änd mejk ówt wât shí wâz kôming tuw, bût it wâz tuw dark tuw sí eníþing; ðen shí lukt ät ðe sajdz ôv ðe wel, änd nowtist ðät ðej wer fíld wiþ küberdz änd bukshelvz; hír änd ðejr shí sa mäps änd piksjurz húng úpón pegz. Shí tuk dówn â zar frôm wôn ôv ðe shelvz äz shí päst; it wâz lejbúld “Orinz Marmâlejð”, bût tuw her grejt disâpojntment it wâz emtí: shí did nót lajk tuw dróp ðe zar for fír ôv kiling sômbôdí únderníþ, sow mänizd tuw put it intuw wôn ôv ðe küberdz äz shí fel päst it.

Excerpt from the first chapter of Alice in Wonderland written with RAEA

The Reformation American English Alphabet

Letter	IPA	Common Name	Formal Name	
Aa	/ɑ/	aa	art	art
Ää	/æ/	ää	äsh	ash
Bb	/b/	bí	bír	beer
Cc	/ts/	enc	fenc	fence
Dd	/d/	dí	dej	day
Ðð	/ð/	eð	wed̥er	weather
Ee	/e/	ee	elk	elk
Ff	/f/	ef	fajer	fire
Gg	/g/	ge	gift	gift
Hh	/h/	ha	hal	hall

Ââ, Ôô, Ûû: Pronounced as /ə/ but viewed as a diacritic of the root letter and thus would be read as a/o/u circumflex.

Qq: Does not have formal names as they only exist in foreign words.

Letter	IPA	Common Name	Formal Name	
Ii	/i/	ii	il	ill
Íí	/i/	íí	íst	east
Jj	/j/	je	juwnit	unit
Kk	/k/	kej	kí	key
Ll	/l/, /ʎ/	el	lejk	lake
Mm	/m/	em	män	man
Nn	/n/	en	nuwn	noon
Oo	/o/	ow	rowd	road
Óó	/ɔ/	däsht-ow	lóst	lost
Pp	/p/	pí	pót	pot
Qq	—	kjuw	—	—
Rr	/ɹ/	ar	rejn	rain
Ss	/s/	es	stow	stone
Tt	/t/	tí	tajd	tide
Þþ	/θ/	owþ	þorn	thorn
Uu	/ʊ/	uu	buk	book
Vv	/v/	ví	välí	valley
Ww	/w/	we	welþ	wealth
Xx	/ks/	ex	hex	hex
Yy	/j/	waj	yarn	yarn
Zz	/z/	zí	zírow	zero
Žž	/dʒ/	ʒe	ʒûʒ	judge

Letters	IPA	RAEA	Classical
í	/i/	bít	beet
i	/ɪ/	bit	bit
ej	/ej/	bejt	bait
e	/ɛ/	bet	bet
ä	/æ/	bät	bat
û/ô/â	/ə/ or /ʌ/	bût	but
uw	/uɰ/	buwt	boot
u	/ʊ/	buk	book
o	/o/ /ɔ/ /ɑ/	bolt	bolt
ow	/ow/	bowt	boat
oj	/oj/	boj	boy
a/ó	/ɑ/	bót	bought
aw/ów	/aw/	bówt	bout
aj	/aj/	bajt	bite
*ä	/eə/	bän	ban
er/ur	/ɜ/	bur	burr
ejr	/eə/	bejr	bare
ír	/ɪə/	bír	beer

Table 1. Vowels, Diphthongs and R Colored Vowels in the RAEA (* see notes on letter)

Letters	IPA	RAEA	Classical
ng	/ŋ/	bing	bing
tt	/ʔ/	bittn	bitten
c / ts	/ts/	fenc / käts	fence/cats
ch / tj	/tʃ/	bäch/póstjur	bach/posture
sh / sj	/ʃ/	bäsh/misjôn	bash/mission
zj	/ʒ/	sízzur	seizure
ʒ	/dʒ/	bäʒ	badge

Table 2. Digraphs in the RAEA

The Reform

This reform is in many ways heavily inspired by the orthographic works of various other European languages. However, to bring English into its own has required some unique approaches. While in some respects the reform brings dramatic spelling changes, much care was given to try and maintain connections to previous spellings and intuitions. Because of this, some changes will only be present in half completed states or are yet unchanged. This may not be an ideal, and introduces various asynchronicities, but regardless the standard is largely consistent. These half steps can be viewed then as roads laid for future reforms.

Overall, this is a phonemic (not phonetic) reform. This means that any given letter may represent a general range of closely related sounds whose varied pronunciations would not change the meaning of a word. Think of each letter as describing a sound rather than defining its exact value. This means then that the IPA transcriptions provided should be only thought of as a guide. In light of the

refocusing of the letters (and the additions of new ones) many have had to take on new names to match their new focus. The names presented on the previous pages were chosen so that they would both best represent the sound (as is possible in English Phonology) as well as have a formal name that bears a quite distinct reading that all speakers would recognize.

While much more of the phonology of English is transcribed into text with the RAEA, there are still several subtleties that are left implied. Most often these various subtleties only come across in certain dialects or are the result of certain phonemes (letters) that take on different sounds in specific contexts as described in the Letter Notes in the section later on.

The separation of orthography and phonology is none more apparent than when we look at the letter L. The letter L exhibits several interesting characteristics that make its transition into writing challenging. Firstly, in English there actually are two different L sounds. One is the normal L (/l/) found in words like *lake* and the other is the Dark L (/ɫ/) found in words like *hall*. While pronounced differently, they have never been (and continue to not be) differentiated in writing as to the native speaker they are equivalent in meaning. Then, there is the fact that the letter L (alongside R, M, & N) is syllabic. Syllabic letters can make up an entire syllable alone. In English however, this normally only happens when these letters follow a stressed syllable. This isn't a new phenomenon and is already found in quite a few Classical Spellings like *appl(e)*. Syllabism itself requires a nuanced approach and is addressed specifically in a section its own further on. Continuing then, there exists what is called Pre-L Breaking. This occurs in many dialects for words that have a diphthong before an L.

RAEA		Classical	IPA
ul	wul	wool	/wʊɫ/
uwl	fuwl	fool	/fuwl/
ol	tol	toll	/toɫ/
ûl	skûl	skull	/skɔɫ/
ûl*	pûl	pull	/pɫ/
l	tejbl	table	/tej.bl/

Table 3. Challenging Dark L Vowel Combinations (*syllabized variant)

In these cases the word would take on an added schwa before the L adding an extra syllable. Taking words like **hail** (/hejɫ/) and making them **hey-ul** (/hej.əɫ/). However, this is quite dialect dependent and when ignored it doesn't result in any change in meaning and thus is not taken to writing. It should also be noted here that the new letter Í actually represents the subtle diphthong Íj (/ij/) and thus is affected by Pre-L Breaking. Finally, the letter L (like R) also tends to be co-articulated, meaning that its presence influences the sounds surrounding it (like the subtle difference between **Mead** and **Meal**). All of this together can make discerning which vowel should be used to represent a certain L sound troublesome. As such one should refer to **Table 3** for a general guide, but recognize that various dialects will not exactly match in pronunciation.

One current under English Reformation is the drive to bring written orthography closer to the genuine phonological complexity of speech. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the endings (such as plurals, possessions and the past tense). Endings now are influenced by voicing (as seen in **Table 3 & 4**). A voiced letter, can be explained as to whether a given

sound/letter causes one's throat (vocal cords) to vibrate. If so it is voiced (like Z), if not unvoiced (like S). This reality is important to be taken to writing as it both prepares the language for future change (ensuring they will be less drastic) as well as it helps ensure homophones to bear identical spellings (passed & past → *päst*) thus further aligning speech and text.

Among American Dialects, one of the defining features is the merger of various vowel sounds. These once distinct vowels have over the generations become pronounced identically as seen in the

Suffix	Rule	RAEA	Classical
-t	Final sound unvoiced	fish fisht	fish fished
-d	Final sound voiced	lej lejd	lay laid
-id	Word ends in D or T	húnt húntid	hunt hunted
—	Exceptions	sit sät	sit sat

Table 4. Past Tense Rules in RAEA

Suffix	Rule	RAEA	Classical
-s	Final sound unvoiced	dúk dúks	duck ducks
-z	Final sound voiced	ówl ówlz	owl owls
-iz	Word ends in S Š X C Ć Z Ž 3	hors horsiz	horse horses
—	Exception (stem change)	maws majs	mouse mice
—	Exception (unchanged)	wôn shíp tuw shíp	one sheep two sheep

Table 5. Plural and Possessive Rules in RAEA

FATHER-BOTHER merger, or the more recent NORTH-FORCE merger. While the vowels in COT & CAUGHT are still distinguished in many dialects in the United States, this is becoming less so every year. Nowadays the majority (in every sense of the word) does not distinguish the two. Even within areas with holdout dialects, the youth are slowly taking the two words to be pronounced as one. It is likely that within the next two generations the distinction of these words will in its entirety be but an archaism. As such, the RAEA in its aim to both represent the current speakers and position itself properly for the future, chooses to embrace the COT-CAUGHT merger. This means that these two words will be written identically as “KÓT”. In embracing this merger it also allows for the playful use of Ó and A (explained in more detail further on) as a lifeline to classical spellings.

While overall the RAEA is a merger of various dialects, there are certain words that are shibboleths and remain divisive. The most well known example being the word *Caramel*. For many it is pronounced “Karmûl” while for others it is “Kejrâmel”. For such cases both forms of the word are viewed as correct and it is thus up to the writer on which to choose.

Stepping away from dialects, let us look at punctuation. Here we find that the RAEA takes a much more relaxed stance compared to Classical English in regards to style and punctuation rules. The forefront of this is seen in the Quotation Marks. While the double high curved quotation marks (“...” of tradition still continue in usage, now the outward facing Guillemots («...») also find their place (whether as secondaries or stylistic primaries). Further, the tradition (which is so rarely found in English) of Em Dashes to mark speech provides another option (*Figure 1* shows

– Venus is alight, said he.
 “Venus is alight”, said he.
 «Venus is alight», said he.

Figure 1. Speech marks in RAEA

all three in practice). Additionally, punctuation no longer needs to be forced inside the quotation marks when guiding the flow of the sentence as a whole and can instead be placed outside. Punctuation should serve as a tool for the native speaker to match their speech in writing rather than the strict rigidity of literary opinion.

This can be seen none better than in the addition of the Sarcasm-mark (*Figure 2*). This is a dearly needed development in written language as sarcasm is extremely difficult to pick up with wording alone, is very common, and lacks a simple way to convey. This mark is inspired by both the back and forth nature of a sarcastic tone, the letter S that makes up the word sarcasm itself, and the forms of the other two existing tone marks.

Going further, all tone marks also now can take an optional inverted form that can be placed at the beginning of a sentence to convey that a given tone should be read throughout. This gives a sentence a higher level of intensity for the given tone than only a single mark at the end. This allows authors more nuance in their writings and allows readers to naturally understand when to carry a tone throughout a sentence compared to it solely manifesting as but a hint at the end. The inverted sarcasm-mark is only flipped vertically, instead of both vertically and axially, to ensure it would not be confused with a capital S.

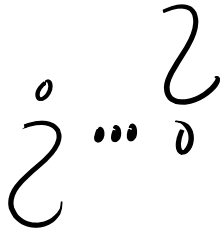


Figure 2. Sarcasmmark (Handwritten)

This then leads us to the “*not contraction*” (-n’t). Alas, it is finally recognized that in Modern English this contraction has become a genuine suffix. This means that it should be added directly to the end of a word (can, can’t → *kän, kánt*). This negation marker is a thing its own rather than a contraction for the word *not*. Additionally, it’s important to note that while contractions are spelled with the letters of their contracted word, in speech they are also bound by voicing rules (that’s[that is] → *đät’z[đät iz]*, even though its pronounced *đät’s*). This is not written in the RAEA for both simplicity and clarity.

Another current of the reform is the effort to reground English alongside related (Germanic) languages. This manifests in two parts. Firstly, is in its written aesthetics and sensibilities. And second, is in its approach to the cultural pinnings of the language. This first part has influenced every aspect thus far from the letter-phoneme correspondences to the punctuation rules. While the second covers the subtle cultural markings of things such as wording and foreign loanwords and how a language represents the mindset of a culture.

One aspect that lines both facets of this effort is compound words. In Modern English compound words are found quite restrained, only appearing in very old or

commonly used phrases with the hyphen generally being used else wise. However, with the reform compound words should now always be used when representing singular ideas. This serves to help clear up ambiguity like in: *The English Teacher*. This phrase now is either compounded into *The Englishteacher* (implying a teacher of English) or remains separate as *The English Teacher* (implying a teacher from England). The hyphen will still be found in potentially confusing, long, or rare compounds. It should be noted though, that phrasal verbs (multiple words working together to form a new single action, like *run around*) should still remain separated. Number words should use hyphens between digits (like: *sixty-six*), but not within a single digit’s value (like: *sixhundred*).

English’s heart is of purely native Germanic words. Yet, more so than any other European tongue, it has assimilated a large swath of French vocabulary. These two sources have alongside another for so long that they have become so well established that they are but one for the modern native speaker. The truly troublesome and irregular foreign words that we generally find today are those of Latin and Greek origin. These relatively recent additions have been unable to be incorporated properly into the everyman’s speech. No place is this better seen than in the most common abbreviations. There is no land in which the common native speaker would say *id est* (i.e.). If this is so, why should this phrase be written? These abbreviations should instead be taken back to the common constructions of native wordings (as seen in *Table 6*). Overall, we are not advocating for complete linguistic purity, but many of these academic forcings should at the very least be reevaluated.

While common words **always** follow the various spelling rules there are two exceptions. These are *THE* and *NO*. *THE* is an exception because when pronounced in its strong form (when emphasized) it would be spelled as *ðí* but it is more commonly found in its weak form which would be spelled as *ðû*. Yet, neither of these two options have any visual connection to its classical spelling. While *ðê* would be an ideal to represent the word (following the spelling rules) the usage of the letter Ê would be found so rarely that it makes little sense to add this additional burden. As such *THE* is spelled as *ðe* in the RAEA. This compromise is an homage to its classical spelling while also being quite reasonable in phoneme correspondences and actually phonology. The word *NO* on the other hand if properly transcribed would be written as *NOW* (still read as no). However, this obviously is not ideal as it matches the classical word *NOW* (as in right now). Thus to prevent this confusion, and keep some semblance of consistency from the classical spelling, *NO* is transcribed without the W leaving it still as *NO*. It should be seen too that *KNOW* as a homophone is also spelled *NO*.

While generally the spellings of various words will follow the rules and align with the native speakers instinct, there are certain words that this will not be so immediately obvious. Reasons vary, but these choices are always done so purposefully (whether obvious or not). A perfect example would be the word *house* (*haws*). While it could also be transcribed as *hóws*, which is phonemically correct, this misses the spirit of the word and guides the unlearned intuition astray.

While this Reformed English will inevitably not completely eliminate the necessity to learn the spellings of words it will be a dramatic simplification. This reform will be that which will lay the paths forth so that one day the language can bear absolute consistency. A step forth.

RAEA		Classical	
f.ex.	for exämpl (for example)	e.g.	exempli gratia
s.ä.	sûch äz (such as)	i.e.	id est
ä.s.	änd sûch (and such)	etc.	et cetera
ârd.	ârównd (around)	c./cir.	circa
ð.i.	ðät iz (that is)	i.e.	id est

Table 6. RAEA Abbreviations compared to their Classical English Latin Counterparts

Syllabism

Syllabism is the phenomenon where certain letters (in English these are R, N, M, & L) can make up an entire syllable without needing a vowel. The rules regarding when this happens are nuanced and beyond the scope of discussions here, but one should recognize that syllabism is fairly common in English. In this section the various ways syllabism is addressed is shown. However, it should be seen that while R is phonemic it is an exception to our discussions here due to its incredibly intuitive and regular manifestation in digraphs both in Classical and Reformed English.

Generally, most representations of syllabic letters will be written as a combination of a “reduced vowel(schwa)”+“syllabic letter”. Even though the schwa would not be read, this transcription allows for the most familiarity against classical spellings while also maintaining a reasonable level of accuracy in its transcription. This what we see in words like *wagon* (**wägôn**), *normal* (**normâl**), or *album* (**älbûm**). For words with multiple vowels in its classical spelling before the consonant (often changing the value of the consonant before), only the final one remains. This happens in words like *question* (**kwestjôn**) or *ferocious* (**ferowsjûs**).

Words with classical spellings that reflect their syllabic nature continue to be spelled as such. These are generally those ending in -LE or are exceptions. Examples would be *prism* (**prizm**), *rhythm* (**riðm**), or *little* (**litl**). This is the most truthful transcription of the sound, however other words do not follow suit as it leads to quite a visual departure. Additional vowels are not added in these words to make them inline with the others for the same reason.

The most dramatic change is for words who bear a glottal stop with a syllabized N. These words come in various classical spelling arrangements but are all transcribed the same of a sole N. This is seen in words like *cotton* (**kóttñ**) or *satín* (**sättn**). While a reduced vowel could have been placed before the N (especially as all classical spellings have vowels here) this is not done as the words come from such varied spellings that in choosing any vowel would distance many of these now similarly spelled words from their varied classical forms.

Finally, there are those who classical spellings used an E or an I. These letters take special exceptions as they are nearly never reduced in Classical Spellings and thus it makes little sense to give them special forms with diacritics. For those of an E the letter if left intact as in *dozen* (**dôzen**) or *garden* (**garden**). This sound is intuited by the native speaker as syllabic and thus doesn't need further marking. While for those with an I, it is instead replaced with a Û. Seen in words like *peril* (**pejrûl**) or *civil* (**sivûl**). This is done for several reasons. Further, unlike the E the I is not quite internalized by the native speaker to represent the syllabized sound and thus it is replaced with the very clear Û.

Finally, certain compound words may be written with syllabized consonants even when the words making up the compound do not. This is happens when a given compound read as a whole is pronounced differently (syllabized) than when the words are read individually. This normally is only found in country names (or some words containing *land*), like *Iceland* (**Ajsslând**) or *island* (**ajlând**) or words containing *man*, like *airman* (**ejrmân**) or *policeman* (**pôlismân**). For these words relating to a person this also means that

the singular and plural forms are read (and spelled) the same.

While these approaches to syllabism are not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, they are functional and do their best to tie back to classical spellings. Future reforms would likely look to take this a step further in bringing it to be wholly consistent.

Classical	RAEA	
-ssion	-sjôn	misjôn (mission)
-ture	-tjur	póstjur (posture)
-cian	-sjân	pólitisjân (politician)
-ision	-izjôn	vizjôn (vision)
-sure	-zjur	plezjur (pleasure)
-ssure	-sjur	presjur (pressure)
-tion	-tiôn	fräktiôn (fraction)

Table 7. Some common letter combinations and their new spellings

Classical	RAEA
bottom	bótôm
venom	venôm
lemon	lemôn
album	albûm
human	hjuwmân
urban	urbân
normal	normâl
animal	änimâl
annul	ânûl
cotton	kóttñ
certain	serttn
fashion	fäshôn
question	kwestjôn
nation	nejtiôn
ferocious	ferowsjûs
travel	trävel
model	módel
problem	próblem
item	ajtem
garden	garden
even	íven
loosen	luwsen
people	pípl
table	tejbl
cycle	sajkl

Table 8. Various words affected by syllabism in the RAEA

Notes on Letters & Digraphs

Aa: This is the “default” letter for this sound, although Ó will often be found in words whose classical spellings used O for the sound (like: cot → *kót*). Words will not be differentiated solely from these two letters and thus homophones will choose one of the forms to be the new standard spelling.

Ää: Placed after A as its seen to be a derived form. Ä was chosen over the Old English Æ as classical spellings often already used A, meaning Ä is more visually similar and thus easier to read. If extended characters are not supported it should be replaced with AE. If placed before a liquid sound (letters: M, N, or NG), due to Æ raising it is generally pronounced as /ɛə/. This is why *fän* (fan) is pronounced as /fɛən/.

Ââ, Ôô, Ûû: The circumflex diacritic is used to indicate that the given (historical) vowel is now reduced (pronounced as a schwa). This allows for easy recognition of the new spellings compared to their classical ones. These are not viewed as independent letters, merely as an A, O, & U with a diacritic/reduction. Should another vowel be found to represent a schwa in classical spellings, like I (as mentioned in the discussion regarding syllabism), Û should be used instead as the “default”.

Cc (TS): All words should use TS save for those previously already using a C (like: fence → *fenc*). This both ensures that plurals and possessions are obvious, while still helping to tie words back towards their classical spellings. Foreign words may retain C in its original context, however it should be replaced with the phonemically correct letter when the word become commonplace in English.

CH / TJ: These two digraphs represent the two accepted ways in which this sound may be presented. TJ may seem odd to represent the sound when viewed in isolation but becomes quite reasonable when viewed in use (like: fortune → *fortjûn*). J being used to build these digraphs matches the usage in North Germanic languages which helps further bringing English into alignment. Words utilizing some variant of CH (including TCH) should continue to be spelled as such, while those using T with vowels for the sound should migrate to TJ. The only exception of this is TR, which while pronounced by the youth of today as CH-R (or TJ-R), should still remain spelled as TR. This is maintained as it is always consistent and to change the spelling would distance new spellings from their classical counterparts with essentially no gain.

Dd: In certain words this letter will represent the alveolar tap (/ɾ/) making it synonymous to the letter *T*. See also **3** reading the reading of DR. Future reforms should pursue the tap represented through other means.

Ðð: One of the Old English letters, now used only for the voiced dental fricative. If it cannot be written, it should be replaced with DH.

ER/UR: ER is the default digraph of letters to represent this sound. UR, while not quite phonemically accurate, may be used in certain spellings to maintain a direct connection to its Classical Form. This is used sparingly and only for words which do not else change heavily, else ER is used. This dual approach is why words is seen in words like *nurse* (*nurs*) and *nature* (*nejtjur*). This phonemic inaccuracy of UR is not an issue as this theoretical combination does not exist in American English. Future reforms should look to collapsing these two forms to just ER.

Ii: This usage was chosen as it matches the native speakers intuition of the letter.

Íí: This visually different letter has was chosen to represent this sound to prevent confusion against the letter I. Further in this usage it matches the other Germanic Languages. Technically, this letter represents the subtle /ij/ glide and thus it is affected by Pre-L breaking. Whenever an I is placed after Í, a J should be placed in between two. This helps visually distinguish the word, while not changing its phonemic accuracy (thus: free, freeing → *frí, fríjing*). If Í cannot be written IJ should be used instead.

Jj: J is the default letter for this sound and the traditional Germanic letter. Words that begin with this sound should use Y there instead. Diphthongs always use J over I as it prevents confusion with classical spellings. This ensures words like *bite* become the unfamiliar *bajt* over the possibly confusing *bait*. See Í for its usage there. Additionally, this letter plays an important role in the new diphthongs SJ, ZJ, and TJ.

Ll: See the discussion in the previous pages regarding Pre-L Breaking and the Dark L. Additionally, see the dedication section regarding syllabism. *Table 3* provides an overview of the various orthographic forms the tinged pronunciations of L take.

Mm: A potentially syllabic consonant. See the section regarding syllabism.

Nn: A potentially syllabic consonant. See the section regarding syllabism.

NG: Future reforms should explore transitioning to a single letter for this sound whether using diacritics like ñ or another form like ŋ.

Oo: O is always a part of the diphthong OW save for when it is before an R or L. The only exception is the word NO.

Óó: See the notes on A.

Uu: UW is used for the more common sound (compared to U) as this eliminates contexts in which the new spellings could be misleading when compared against Classical Spellings and also accurately represents the true phoneme.

Qq: This letters should not be used save for foreign words that have not been adapted.

SH / SJ / TI: Follows the same general usage rules as CH, but of course with SH, SJ, and TI. Classical spellings that use T to represent this sound, should adapt to TI to maintain the clarity, while those using other schemes (most notably SSI) should adapt to SJ.

Tt: In certain words this letter will represent the alveolar tap (/ɾ/) making it synonymous to the letter *D*. See also *CH* regarding the reading of TR. TI is an odd digraph in relation to the reform as a whole but is a continuation of that classical english form which appears so often, and thus helps reduce changes whilst still retaining consistency.

TT: While not actually a letter (or sound uttered), this digraph matches classical spelling (and thus native intuition) of the “sound” present.

Pþ: Another Old English letter. Collated as a variant of T. It may be replaced with TH if needed.

Xx: This letter is retained to try and maintain visual connections to old spellings. Thus it is still used in words it was previously so long as its represents the KS sound. However, in any new contexts the letter should be replaced with KS, and when it was used for other sounds it will be adapted instead into the proper letter.

Yy: J is the default letter for this sound. Any words that begin with this sound should use Y, else J should be used. This ensures spellings seem familiar where they can be while also the letter combinations remain novel yet familiar, and unlikely to be misconstrued.

ZJ: While this letter combination is a novel construct to handle this sound, it was chosen as it fits in line with SJ and TJ.

Ʒ: This letter was chosen for its visual similarity to the Middle English ȝ (Yogh). Further, as a descender this letter fits in the currents of the J/G it replaces. This letter Ʒe (historically called EZH), was chosen over Yogh for visual clarity and continuity and in many ways is essentially a modern form of that letter. If Ʒ cannot be used, DZJ should be used instead. Similar to TR (see *CH*), DR is pronounced as ƷR but its spelling is unchanged.

Classical	RAEA	
anti-	äntí-	äntífríz (antifreeze)
dis-	dis-	disbelív (disbelieve)
mis-	mis-	mistrajl (mistrial)
non-	nón-	nónbelíver (nonbeliever)
pre-	prí-	prípej (prepay)
re-	rí-	rísend (resend)
un-	ûn-	ûnsí (unsee)

Classical	RAEA	
-able	-âbl	lôvâbl (loveable)
-al	-âl	persônâl (personal)
-en	-en	browken (broken)
-er	-er	hajer (higher)
-est	-ist	lowist (lowest)
-ful	-fûl	helpfûl (helpful)
-ic	-ik	lôzistik (logistic)
-ing	-ing	helping (helping)
-tion	-tiôn	äktiôn (action)
-ity	-ití	âbilití (ability)
-tive	-tiv	sûmâtiv (summative)
-less	-lis	hartlis (heartless)
-ly	-lí	najtlí (nightly)
-ment	-ment	gôvernment (government)
-ness	-nis	darknis (darkness)
-ous	-ûs	nervûs (nervous)
-y	-í	fûní (funny)

Table 9 & 10. Common Prefixes and Suffixes in RAEA

Future Work

So where do we go from here? What work remains to bring this reform to life? And where should the future lead?

Most generally, the reform outlined here serves to be but the very first step. The call to action, the original implementation. It serves to inspire and encourage, but certainly will not be the final solution. Before any such reform is liveable there is much work to be done. This will not be easy and will require the efforts and expertise of many.

However, once these foundations are put into place the reform can quickly reach critical mass in but the blink of an eye. The universal genuine realization of the reform as an actual movement once this is achieved will be but a matter of time.

Additionally, as English pushes through reform, we should not allow it to fall in disrepair again. Thus work needs to be done towards an institution, whether governmental or non-governmental, that will monitor the changes of our language

throughout the generations and be stewards who will update it accordingly. They will be those who shall protect our future from the trouble we find ourselves in presently. They will be those who will ensure the language represents its speakers of the now and not those long past. How exactly this will happen and the future will manifest remains yet to be seen.

What the future holds however, is very much dependent on you. Yes you, dear reader. This future will not be possible without your help. Thus any who have but a will to see a change, should reach out to contact@reformeuropa.net or visit our website to get involved and thus be the spark which will forever change our lives.

Further Readings:

Spelling Trouble?

Language, Ideology and the Reform of German Orthography
by Sally Johnson

Understanding and Teaching the Pronunciation of English
by Marla Yoshida

Handbook of Simplified Spelling
by The Simplified Spelling Board