

Everyman's
ENGLISH PRONOUNCING
DICTIONARY

CONTAINING OVER 58,000 WORDS IN
INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

By

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TWELFTH EDITION



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PREFACE TO THE TWELFTH EDITION (1963)

THIS twelfth edition is in the main a reprint of the re-set eleventh edition of 1956. It embodies, however, a number of improvements. In particular, it has been found possible to incorporate into the body of the book sixty-three entries which appeared in a Supplement to the 1960 reprint of the eleventh edition. Moreover, about 200 new words have been added, and some errors, kindly brought to my notice by colleagues and correspondents, have been rectified.

Users of this Dictionary are recommended to pay special attention to the important information contained in the Introduction, the 'Explanations' (pages xx-xlii), and the 'Glossary of Phonetic Terms' (pages 535-8).

D. J.

February 1963.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I AM indebted to numerous friends and correspondents for help of various kinds in connexion with the eleventh and twelfth editions of this book. First and foremost I owe more than I can express to Miss G. M. Miller, Head of the Pronunciation Unit of the B.B.C., and to her chief assistant Miss E. D. Anderson; with unfailing kindness they have, both by correspondence and in the course of numerous personal interviews, put freely at my disposal their immense and indeed unique experience and knowledge of pronunciation problems, and have enlightened me on the pronunciation of hundreds of words about which I was uncertain. I owe much too to Miss A. D. Parkinson for assistance in the preparation of the manuscript, to the late Mrs. E. M. Gunther who read the whole of the proofs of the eleventh edition with meticulous care and made many useful suggestions for improvements; also to Mr. A. P. Rudolf who spent much time in collecting facts relating to the pronunciation of Jewish names, to Miss E. Pierce Roberts and Mr. E. L. Tibbitts for much information regarding Welsh names, to Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and the late Prof. J. R. Firth for information concerning some of the Indian words, to Dr. J. G. Porter for help in connexion with astronomical names, and to Miss B. Honikman who kindly undertook a great part of the arduous task of calculating the number of words recorded. Among many others who have sent me notes of errors, modern changes of pronunciation, omissions, etc., I would mention specially Mr. A. C. Gimson, Reader in Phonetics, University College, London, Mr. P. A. D. MacCarthy, Head of the Department of Phonetics in the University of Leeds, Dr. W. R. Lee, Editor of the British Council's journal *English Language Teaching*, M. Georges Bertrand, Mrs H. J. Uldall, Mr. A. W. Ballard, Mr. C. Pybus, and Mr. John Wells.

I continue to remember with gratitude those who rendered service in connexion with former editions, and especially those whose names were recorded in previous prefaces. Here it must suffice if I make special mention of my late friend Walter Ripman whose death in 1947 deprived the world of a very remarkable linguist, teacher and authority on modern methods in education. His help with this Dictionary dated from the time when the book was in contemplation about fifty years ago. Its original plan was settled largely in consultation with him; he revised all the proofs of the first edition, and he never failed subsequently to assist me with his experience and advice as long as he was able. I am glad to take this opportunity of recalling with gratitude and affection all the help that he so generously bestowed on this work.

D. J.

February 1963.

NUMBER OF WORDS RECORDED IN THE DICTIONARY

THE fourth printing (1960) of the eleventh edition of this Dictionary recorded the pronunciations of 58,101 words, exclusive of the numerous inflected forms mentioned in the Note below. This total was made up as follows:

Ordinary words entered as head-words	.	.	.	33,274	
Ordinary words	{	with terminations -ly or -ness	.	5,790	
grouped under	{	with terminations -er , -or , or -ment	.	1,773	
head-words	{	miscellaneous	.	2,541	
		Total number of ordinary words	.	43,378	43,378
Proper Names ¹	{	entered as head-words	.	12,348	
	{	grouped under such head-words	.	992	
	{	indicated by bracketed capital letter	.	1,295	
		Total number of Proper Names	.	14,635	14,635
Abbreviations	88
		Total	.	.	58,101

NOTE

Words of different meaning but with the same pronunciation and spelling are not entered as separate words. Thus there is only one entry **bear**.

The following words are in the Dictionary, but are not counted in the above total (except in the comparatively rare cases where such forms are entered as head-words):

Plurals of nouns.

Similar forms not having plural meaning (e.g. **athletics**).

Comparatives and superlatives of adjectives.

Inflected forms of verbs.

Verbal forms derived from words other than verbs (e.g. **brocaded**, **blanketing**).

Proper Names of plural form grouped under the corresponding Proper

Name of singular form (e.g. **Ayres**).

NUMBER OF WORDS IN THE TWELFTH EDITION

The present (twelfth) edition includes about 200 additional words. The total now is thus about 58,300 (exclusive of the inflected forms).

¹ The term 'Proper Name' is taken to include all words written with a capital letter.

INTRODUCTION

OBJECT OF THIS BOOK

1. THE purpose of the present Dictionary is to record, with as much accuracy as is necessary for practical linguistic purposes, the pronunciation used by a considerable number of typical Southern English people (see §3) in ordinary conversation.

2. The book is a record of *facts*, not of theories or personal preferences. No attempt is made to decide how people *ought* to pronounce; all that the dictionary aims at doing is to give a faithful record of the manner in which certain people *do* pronounce.

THE PRONUNCIATION

3. The pronunciation represented in this book is that which I believe to be very usually heard in everyday speech in the families of Southern English people who have been educated at the public schools.¹ This pronunciation is also used (sometimes with modifications) by those who do not come from Southern England, but who have been educated at these schools. The pronunciation may also be heard, to an extent which is considerable though difficult to specify, from natives of Southern England who have not been educated at these schools. It is probably accurate to say that a majority of Londoners who have had a university education, use either this pronunciation or a pronunciation not differing greatly from it.²

4. I believe that the pronunciation above referred to is readily understood in most parts of the English-speaking world. This result is perhaps due to the boarding-school system of education prevalent in England. For centuries past, boys from all parts of Great Britain have been educated together in boarding-schools. If a boy in such a school has a marked local peculiarity in his pronunciation, it generally disappears or is modified during his school career under the influence of the different mode of speaking which he hears continually around him; he consequently emerges from school with a pronunciation similar to that of the other boys. Similar considerations apply to modern boarding-schools for girls.

5. In day schools local pronunciations do not disappear nearly as readily as in the boarding-schools, because the pupils continually hear

¹ 'Public school' in the English sense, not in the American sense.

² The pronunciation is in the main that which I use myself. I have, however, put my pronunciation in a secondary place in all cases where another form appears to me to be in more frequent use. Readers may like to know that my father and mother were both Londoners, and that I have lived all my life in or near London. I was educated at Radley College (Abingdon), University College School (London) and King's College, Cambridge.

the local pronunciation used around them. Nevertheless the fact remains that people in every important centre often have opportunities of hearing the above-mentioned pronunciation either from people who have had a public school education, or through the constant intercommunication with London, or through the school teachers or through broadcasting. For these reasons I think it probable that this form of speech is more widely understood with ease in Great Britain than any other form would be. It is often called 'Received Pronunciation' (abbreviation RP), for want of a better term. I should like it to be understood, however, that RP means merely 'widely understood pronunciation,' and that I do not hold it up as a standard which everyone is recommended to adopt.

6. RP is, as far as I have been able to ascertain, also easily understood in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and by English-speaking Canadians. Even in the United States, where so many varieties of pronunciation are to be heard, it seems that this pronunciation is fairly universally understood without difficulty—a curious fact considering that American speech is not by any means always understood in England. When I was in America in 1925, several American teachers (mostly from New York and the North-Eastern part of the United States) informed me, somewhat to my surprise, that RP or RP with slight modifications would be a suitable standard for teaching in American schools. This view is probably no longer held. In any case, I cannot think that any attempt to introduce this pronunciation into America is likely to meet with success.

7. The fact that RP and approximations to it are easily *understood* almost everywhere in the English-speaking world does not mean that RP is *used* by a majority of English-speaking people. On the contrary, it is used by a rather small minority. There exist countless other ways of pronouncing English, some of them being used by large communities. Whether broadcasting will in the long run alter this state of things remains to be seen.

8. I would add here that I do not regard RP as intrinsically 'better' or more 'beautiful' than any other form of pronunciation. I have recorded it because it happens to be the only type of English pronunciation about which I am in a position to obtain full and accurate information.

9. I wish also to state that I have no intention of becoming either a reformer of pronunciation or a judge who decides what pronunciations are 'good' and what are 'bad.' My aim is to observe and record accurately, and I do not believe in the feasibility of imposing one particular form of pronunciation on the English-speaking world. I take the view that people should be allowed to speak as they like. And if the public wants a standardized pronunciation, I have no doubt that some appropriate standard will evolve itself. If there are any who think otherwise, it must be left to them to undertake the invidious task of deciding what is to be approved and what is to be condemned. This book will provide them with some of the materials they will require as a basis to work upon.

9a. Useful further information relating to RP will be found in Chapter IV of *Problems and Principles* by David Abercrombie (published by Longmans).

UTILITY OF THIS BOOK IN PRACTICAL LINGUISTIC TEACHING

(1) *Utility in General*

10. This Dictionary will, it is hoped, prove useful to anyone who wishes to find out an existing pronunciation of words or proper names which he has seen written but never heard.¹ In addition it will be found to have the following special uses depending on the normal speech of the student.

(2) *Utility to the English Student who speaks with RP*

11. A study of this pronunciation will help such a student to realize what sounds he uses when he speaks. This knowledge is indispensable to him if he is called upon to teach his own pronunciation of English. It may also be of value to him if he is learning to speak a foreign language, and finds it necessary to compare his native speech habits with those of speakers of the language he wishes to acquire.

(3) *Utility to the English-speaking Student whose Pronunciation differs from that here recorded*

12. A study of RP will bring home to such a student the important fact, which is fundamental to all linguistic study, that great variations of pronunciation exist, and are to be expected.

13. If he is a teacher of English, it is desirable that he should be familiar with the main features of other types of English speech besides his own.

(4) *Utility to Foreign Learners*

14. Many foreign learners will no doubt consider one form of RP to be a suitable pronunciation for them to acquire, for the practical reasons that it is widely understood in the English-speaking world and that books dealing with it are easily accessible.

THE PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

15. The phonetic alphabet used in this Dictionary is that of the *Association Phonétique Internationale* (generally known in English as the IPA). For full particulars of this alphabet and the manner of using the symbols readers are referred to the Association's brochure *The Principles of the International Phonetic Association*, 1949 and subsequent editions; it is obtainable from the Secretary of the Association, Department of Phonetics, University College, London, W.C.1 (price 3s. 6d.).

16. Various types of phonetic transcription are possible within the framework of this or any other system. Their constructions depend upon the purposes for which the transcriptions are needed. Some

¹ Its use is thus the contrary of that of the *English Phonetic Dictionary* by H. Michaelis and myself (Carl Meyer, Hanover, 1912). That work was designed for those who wish to find out the current spelling of words they have heard but not seen written.

types are very simple, and comprise relatively few letters and marks; in such types many existing shades of sound are not designated by particular symbols, but are implied by conventions. Other types are more elaborate, and contain more symbols; some or many of the minuter distinctions of sound are shown by means of special symbols, with the result that there are fewer conventions.

17. The simplest kind of phonetic transcription is one which represents one definite form of the language and which is both linguistically and typographically 'broad.' By 'linguistically broad' is meant 'phonemic,' i.e. based on the principle 'one symbol per phoneme.'¹ By 'typographically broad' is meant 'using the minimum number of letter shapes of simplest Romanic form.'² More elaborate kinds of transcription comprise additional symbols or marks introduced for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) to denote particular 'allophones,'³ (2) to show that sounds of the language transcribed differ from analogous sounds of one or more other languages or dialects, (3) to make the system adaptable to more than one way of pronouncing the language transcribed. When a system introduces special symbols for purpose (1) above, it is said to be 'allophonic' or 'linguistically narrow.' When it introduces special symbols for purpose (2), it is said to be 'comparative' or 'typographically narrow.' When it comprises symbols for purpose (3), it is said to be 'inclusive.'⁴

18. For the general theory of types of phonetic transcription and the terminology applicable to the various types, readers are referred to Appendix A in the 1956 and subsequent editions of my *Outline of English Phonetics* (published by Heffer, Cambridge), in which the subject is discussed in considerable detail, and to the article *Phonetic Transcriptions* by D. Abercrombie in *Le Maître Phonétique*, July–December 1953.

19. The form of phonetic transcription of English used in this Dictionary is of an intermediate type. If the book had been designed solely for the use of the foreign learner needing a representation of one particular kind of English pronunciation which he can take as a model, a simpler notation might have been used. Very suitable for such a purpose is the 'Simplified IPA Transcription' employed, for instance, in my book *The Phoneme*, in the books for foreign learners by MacCarthy, Scott and Tibbitts, in Hornby and Parnwell's *English-Reader's Dictionary* and in numerous articles by myself and others which have appeared in *Le Maître Phonétique* since 1930.⁵ The present Dictionary, however, covers a wider field. It is intended as a work of reference for English-

¹ For the term 'phoneme' see various books on phonetics, e.g. my *Outline of English Phonetics* (9th ed., 1960), pp. 49, 50, and *The Pronunciation of English* (4th ed., 1956), p. 165, or in greater detail *The Phoneme* (2nd ed., 1962), and K. L. Pike's *Phonemics* (University of Michigan Press, 1947).

² See *Outline of English Phonetics* (9th ed., 1960), Appendix A, §§ 5, 13.

³ i.e. 'members of phonemes.' See *Outline of English Phonetics* (1956), §19, or *The Pronunciation of English* (4th ed., 1956), §497, or *The Phoneme*, §24.

⁴ See *Outline of English Phonetics* (9th ed., 1960), Appendix A, §§ 24–27.

⁵ Simplified IPA Transcription represents adequately one type of Southern English without recourse to the special vowel letters «ε», «æ», «ɑ» and «ɔ» used in this Dictionary.

speaking people as well as for foreign learners, and is designed both for those who take interest in phonetics as a subject and for those who desire information not only on one particular form of English but also on the most important varieties of pronunciation which may be considered as coming within the range of RP.

20. To this end the present phonetic transcription has to be more 'inclusive' than the Simplified IPA Transcription (see (3) in § 17 above). In particular the following variants (which are unimportant from the point of view of the foreign learner) are shown by means of it:

- (1) the occasional lengthening of «æ»,
- (2) the reduction of the sequences «eiə», «ouə», «oui» to diphthongs «eə», «oə», «oi» (distinct from «ɛə», «ɔə», «ɔi»),
- (3) the use of a monophthongal «o»-sound (distinct from «ɔ») in various unstressed syllables where either «ou» or «ə» or sometimes «u» are also possible.

The transcription is moreover 'internally comparative' to the extent of providing a special symbol «a» (separate from «æ» and «ɑ») to denote the beginning parts of the diphthongs «ai» and «au».

21. Four other variant pronunciations are demonstrable by the transcription used here, but it has not seemed to me necessary to include them. They are the occasional lengthening of the traditionally short «e» and «ʌ», and the reduction of «aiə» to a diphthong «aə» or to a monophthongal «a:» (distinct from «ɑ:»). Yet other variants which might be considered to come within the range of RP exist, but they are not shown in this Dictionary because their inclusion would necessitate a considerable elaboration of the transcription. There are, for instance, many Southern English people who at times lengthen the traditionally short «i», «u» and «ɔ», and there are some who reduce «auə» to a diphthong of the «aə»-type (distinct from the corresponding reduction of «aiə») or to a monophthong of the «a:»-type (distinct from «ɑ:» and also distinct from the reduction of «aiə»). To represent these variants would necessitate the introduction and use throughout the book of four further phonetic symbols, which would I believe seriously impair the legibility and therefore the value of the transcripts.

22. For the same reason I have judged it inadvisable to narrow the transcription (as some have urged me to do) by indicating a third degree of length, or by using a special sign for 'dark' «ɫ», or by introducing a special vowel-letter to denote the ordinary English short «e» on the ground that it differs from the French sounds of *é* and *è*.

EXPLANATIONS

I. HOW TO READ THE ENTRIES

ALL entries in this Dictionary are to be taken as facts ascertained, or in some cases expressions of opinion, by the author. Thus the entry

celluloid 'seljuloɪd

is to be taken to mean 'The word written in conventional spelling **celluloid** is, in my opinion, generally pronounced « 'seljuloɪd » in ordinary conversation by the people referred to in § 3 of the Introduction, subject to variations referred to in the notes in Section XXIV of these Explanations (pp. xxx-xli). Similarly the entry.

Batho 'bæθou, 'beɪθou

means that I have ascertained that some people with the name spelt **Batho** pronounce « 'bæθou » and others pronounce « 'beɪθou ».

II. MEANING OF []

Where two (or more) pronunciations of a word are current among the people referred to in § 3 of the Introduction, and neither (or none) of the forms can be considered rare (relatively to the frequency of the word), both (or all) are as a rule given, the less frequent form (or forms) being enclosed in square brackets []. The only common variants not included are those mentioned in the Introduction, § 21 (p. xix), and in Sections XXIII and XXIV of these Explanations (pp. xxix, xxx). Thus the entry

dynastic di'næstɪk [dai'n-]

is to be taken to mean that the forms « di'næstɪk » and « dai'næstɪk » both occur in RP, « di'næstɪk » being in my opinion the more frequent.

In a few cases for convenience, and especially where it was particularly difficult to form an idea of the relative frequency of variants, the forms have simply been separated by commas. This is done, for instance, in the entries **into**, **Rand**, and interjections like **humph**, **phew**.

III. RARE PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronunciations which are undoubtedly rare (relatively to the frequency of the word) in the speech of those referred to in § 3 of the Introduction are not as a rule included in the Dictionary. In cases where for some special reason it has been thought desirable to mention the existence of such rarer forms, the fact that they are not of the same degree of commonness as other variants has been shown by the addition of '*rarely*,' '*old-fashioned*,' or some other qualifying term.

IV. MEANING OF ITALIC LETTERS

When two pronunciations of a word are distinguished by the insertion or omission of a single sound, and both forms appear to be of approximately equal frequency, the fact is indicated by printing the symbol of the optional sound in italics. Thus the entry

defamatory di'fæmətəri

is to be taken to mean that the forms « di'fæmətəri » and « di'fæmətri » both

occur in RP, the two forms being, as far as I am able to judge, of approximately equal frequency.

In the case of «eɪə», «ouə», and «oui» the use of italic «i» and «u» is to be taken to mean not only that the words transcribed with these symbols are said either with the disyllabic sequences «eɪə», «ouə», «oui» or with the diphthongs «eə», «oə», «oi», but also that they may be said with disyllabic sequences «e-ə», «o-ə», «o-i». See Explanations XX and XXIV B below. Thus the entries

player 'pleɪə*
mower 'mouə*
showy 'ʃouɪ

imply three pronunciations of each word, viz. «'pleɪə*», «'pleə*», «'ple-ə*», «'mouə*», «'moə*», «'mo-ə*», and «'ʃouɪ», «'ʃoi», «'ʃo-i».

V. MEANING OF (:))

When two variant pronunciations are distinguished by the use of «i:» and «i», «u:» and «u», or «ə:» and «ə», and the two forms appear to be of fairly equal frequency, the notation «i(:)», «u(:)», «ə(:)» has been adopted. Thus the entries

trio 'tri(:)ou
duplicity dju(:)'plisiti
interpenetrate ,ɪntə(:)'penitreit

are to be taken to mean that the forms «'tri:ou» and «'triu» both occur in RP, and seem to be of approximately equal frequency; and similarly with «dju:'plisiti» and «dju'plisiti», «,ɪntə:'penitreit» and «,ɪntə'penitreit».

When (:) intervenes between «i» and «ə», it is to be understood that besides having pronunciations with «i:ə» and the diphthong «iə», the word can also be pronounced with a sequence «iə» said in a disyllabic manner (phonetically «i-ə», see Explanations XX, p. xxviii). The same applies to (:) intervening between «u» and «ə». Thus the entries

seer 'si(:)ə*
truant 'tru(:)ənt

are to be interpreted to mean that there exist not only the pronunciations «'si:ə*», «'siə*», «'tru:ənt», «'truənt» but also «'si-ə*», «'tru-ənt».

VI. MEANING OF ('))

The notation (') means that the syllable following is sometimes pronounced with strong stress and sometimes not, and that the two pronunciations appear to be of nearly equal frequency. Thus the entry

inclemency in'klemənsi ['in'k-, (')ɪŋ'k-]

is to be understood to mean that in addition to the pronunciations «in'klemənsi» and «'in'klemənsi» there exist less usual forms «ɪŋ'klemənsi» and «'ɪŋ'klemənsi», and that, as far as I can judge, the two stressings of the pronunciations with «ŋ» are of about equal frequency.

VII. COMBINATIONS OF VARIANT FORMS

When two or more variant pronunciations are indicated, it is to be understood that the forms may be combined in so far as they may be compatible with each other. Thus the entry

Australia ɔs'treɪljə [ɔ:s-, -liə]

is to be taken to mean that the four forms «ɔs'treɪljə», «ɔ:s'treɪljə», «ɔs'treɪliə», «ɔ:s'treɪliə», all occur in RP, «ɔs'treɪljə» being probably the most frequent.

Similarly the entry

distinction dis'tɪŋkʃən

is to be taken to mean that the four forms « dis'tɪŋkʃən », « dis'tɪŋʃən », « dis'tɪŋkʃn », « dis'tɪŋʃn », all occur in RP, and are of approximately equal frequency.

VIII. VARIANT SPELLINGS

Square brackets [] are also used to show variant spellings of words written in conventional spelling in more than one way, but the use of these brackets has in this case no reference to the frequency of either spelling. Thus the two spellings **iron-gray**, **iron-grey** are grouped together under the notation

iron-gray [-grey]

Variations of spelling distinguished by the presence or absence of a single letter are shown, when convenient, by enclosing that letter in round brackets (). Thus the two spellings **zinky**, **zink** are grouped together under the notation **zin(c)ky**.

In like manner, proper names which have the same pronunciation, but spellings differing by the presence or absence of a single letter, are often combined by enclosing that letter in round brackets (). Thus the entry

Ham(m)ond 'hæmənd

is to be taken to mean that the proper names **Hammond** and **Hamond** are both pronounced « 'hæmənd ».

The above devices are not resorted to when the two spellings would be widely separated from each other in the alphabetical order of the words, as in the case of **coloration** and **colouration**.

IX. PROPER NAMES IDENTICAL WITH ORDINARY WORDS

When a proper name is identical with an ordinary word both in conventional spelling and in pronunciation, the fact is indicated by placing a capital letter in round brackets () after the ordinary spelling of the word. Thus the entry

hay (H.) hei

is to be taken to mean that the noun **hay** and the proper name **Hay** are both pronounced « hei ».

When two proper names exist, one of which is identical in spelling and pronunciation with the singular and the other with the plural of an ordinary noun, the one bracketed capital letter placed after the singular noun is to be understood to cover also the name having the plural form. Thus the (G.) in the entry

gibbon (G.), -s 'gɪbən, -z

is to be taken to show that **Gibbons** is pronounced « 'gɪbənz » as well as that **Gibbon** is pronounced « 'gɪbən ». Where, however, a name of plural form has a different pronunciation from that of the plural noun, it is given as a separate entry (*e.g.* **Gillies**).

X. PROPER NAMES PRONOUNCED DIFFERENTLY BUT SPELT THE SAME

When two differently pronounced proper names happen to have the same conventional spelling, the different pronunciations are separated by commas. Thus the entry

Bowden 'bəʊdn, 'baʊdn

is to be taken to mean that there is a proper name **Bowden** pronounced « 'bəʊdn » and another proper name **Bowden** pronounced « 'baʊdn ».

Similarly with **Batho**, **Jaques**, **Laing**, **Powell**, **Rowan**, and many others.

XI. WORDS GROUPED UNDER HEAD-WORDS

The pronunciations of all plurals of nouns are shown under the singulars; all comparatives and superlatives of adjectives and inflected forms of verbs are given under the simple words from which they are derived. Likewise nouns formed from other words by means of the terminations **-er**, **-ing**, **-ment**, **-or** or **-ness**, and adverbs formed by adding the termination **-ly** will as a rule be found under the words from which they may be considered to be derived. Thus **talker**, **meeting** (noun), **annulment**, will be found under **talk**, **meet**, **annul**.

Other derivatives are also grouped under simple words, when no difficulty in finding them is caused thereby. Thus **refractive** will be found under **refract**, **motherhood** and **motherless** under **mother**.

The derived forms of words are not as a rule written out in full, but the terminations to be added are each preceded by a hyphen and divided by a comma, or sometimes by a semicolon, from what precedes. Thus the entry

afford, **-s**, **-ing**, **-ed** ə'fɔ:d, -z, -ɪŋ, -ɪd

is to be taken to mean that in RP the words **afford**, **affords**, **affording**, **afforded** are pronounced « ə'fɔ:d », « ə'fɔ:dz », « ə'fɔ:diŋ », « ə'fɔ:did ».

When the final part of the spelling of a head-word is not repeated before adding a termination, the part to be repeated is marked off by a vertical line | (see, for instance, **addendum**, **fade**). The same thing is done when the final part undergoes some alteration in pronunciation, though not in spelling, in an inflected form (see, for instance, **house**, **nocturnal**, where | precedes the **-se** and the **-al**).

Words not grammatically connected (and especially proper names) are often similarly grouped together, with or without the use of the mark |, where no difficulty in finding the words is caused thereby. Thus the entry

Rutherford, **-glen** 'rʌðə'fæd, -glen

is to be taken to mean that in RP **Rutherford** is pronounced « 'rʌðəfæd » and **Rutherglen** « 'rʌðəglen ».

The mark / is often used to indicate derivatives of words grouped under a head-word. Thus the entry

elegant|ce, **-t/ly** 'elɪɡən|s, -t/li

is to be taken to mean that in RP the words **elegance**, **elegant**, **elegantly** are pronounced « 'elɪɡəns », « 'elɪɡənt », « 'elɪɡəntli ».

When one or more derived words are grouped under a head-word as explained above, and a variant pronunciation of the head-word is given, that variant is to be taken to apply to all the derived words in so far as this may be possible. Thus it is to be understood from the entry

Galt, **-on** ɡɔ:lt [ɡɒlt], -ən

that **Galton** as well as **Galt** is subject to the variant pronunciation with « ɔ ».

XII. STRESS OF DERIVED WORDS

When the head-word is a monosyllable, and a termination for forming a derived word adds another syllable, it is to be understood that the derived word has a strong stress on the root-syllable. Thus from the entry

nine, **-s**, **-fold** naɪn, -z, -fəʊld

it is to be understood that **ninefold** has single stress (on the first syllable). And from the entry

ewe, **-s**; **-lamb**/s ju:, -z; -'læm/z

it is to be understood that in **ewe-lamb** both syllables have strong stress.

When a head-word is a *compound* of which the second element is a weakly stressed monosyllable, and a termination for forming a derived word adds yet another syllable, it is to be understood that the derived word has secondary stress on the first syllable of the second element, except when otherwise indicated. Thus from the entries

greenhouse, -ses 'gri:nhau|s, -ziz
shockhead, -s, -ed 'ʃɒk'hed, -z, -id

it is to be understood that **greenhouses** and **shockheaded** are pronounced «'gri:n,hauziz, 'ʃɒk'hedid».

It is shown, however, under **tea-cup** that **tea-cupful** has secondary stress on the final syllable, thus «'ti:kʌp,ful».

XIII. VARIATIONS OF STRESS

Variations of stress are indicated in many cases by representing the syllables of the word in question by hyphens, instead of writing the word out in its entirety. Thus in the entry

Waterloo, wɔ:tə'lu: ['--', '---]

the indications '--', '---' signify the pronunciations «'wɔ:tə'lu:», «'wɔ:təlu:». Sometimes (as in this case) a note is appended stating in what circumstances or by whom the variants are used.

XIV. ABBREVIATED SPELLINGS

A certain number of common abbreviations (such as **Bros.**, **Chas.**, **cwt.**, **E.C.**, **MSS.**, **q.v.**, **V.I.P.**) are included in the Dictionary. These are arranged in alphabetical order according to the letters composing them.

XV. LINKING «r» AND INTRUSIVE «r»

When a word ending in «ə» (including «iə», «eə», etc.), «ɑ:», «ɔ:» or «ə:» is immediately followed in a connected sentence by a word beginning with a vowel in close grammatical connexion with it, the sound «r» is very often inserted at the end of it, joining it to the next word. (There are two common exceptions to this general rule: (1) The insertion of «r» is unusual if a pause is possible between the words, even if no pause is actually made. (2) Words ending in «-rə» («-riə», «-reə», etc.), «-rɑ:», «-rɔ:» «-rə:», are exceptional and are very often not pronounced with this added «r». For examples see the end of the third paragraph of this Section.)

When the ordinary spelling of the word ends in the letter **r** (or **-re** in some words, such as **are**, **more**, **centre**), the inserted «r»-sound is called a 'linking «r».' When there is no written **r** in the spelling, the inserted «r»-sound is called an 'intrusive «r».'¹

¹ It is the origin of the added «r» which determines whether it is called 'linking' or 'intrusive.' 'Linking «r»' is a relic of the old pronunciation of English when all written *r*'s were pronounced, that is to say when *r*'s were sounded finally and before consonants as well as before vowels—as they still are in many forms of the language. 'Intrusive «r»' is a comparatively recent innovation. It has evidently been brought about by analogy, and dates doubtless from the time when «r» ceased to be sounded in final positions. It is believed that a dropping of final «r» began in the fifteenth century and became general in south-eastern England in the course of the seventeenth. It is reasonable to suppose that the analogical 'intrusive «r»' came into existence at the same time. Its existence was mentioned by some late eighteenth-century writers, who called it a vulgarism (see Jespersen, *Modern English Grammar*, Vol. I, § 13.42).

The following are examples of 'linking «r».' The words **order, bear, clear, hour, far, more, incur** when said by themselves contain no «r»-sound in RP; they are pronounced «'ɔ:də», «bɛə», «kliə», «aʊə», «fɑ:», «mɔ:» or «mɔə», «in'kɑ:». But in such expressions as **order of merit, bear up, clear it away, an hour or two, far off, more effective, to incur a debt** it is usual in RP to insert the sound «r», thus «'ɔ:dər əv 'merit», «'beər 'ʌp», «'kliər it ə'wei», «ən 'aʊər ɔ: tu:», «'fɑ:r 'ɔ:f» or «'fɑ:r 'ɔf», «'mɔ:r i'fektiv» or «'mɔər i'fektiv», «tu in'kɑ:r ə 'det». Instances of cases where 'linking «r»' is not as a rule inserted, as mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, are (1) **he opened the door and walked in, we'll go there later if there's time** («hi: 'əʊpnd ðə 'dɔ: ənd 'wɔ:kt 'in», «wi: l 'gəʊ ðəə 'leɪtə ɪf ðəə z 'taɪm»), (2) **an error of judgment, a roar of laughter** («ən 'erə əv 'dʒʌdʒmənt», «ə 'rɔ: əv 'lɑ:ftə»).

The following are examples of 'intrusive «r».' The words **sofa, Asia, idea, papa, jackdaw** likewise contain no «r»-sound when said in isolation; they are normally pronounced «'sɒfə», «'eɪfə», «aɪ'diə», «pə'pɑ:», «'dʒækdo:». But it is quite common to hear people of the type referred to in § 3 of the Introduction add the sound «r» in such expressions as **the sofa over there, Asia and Africa, the idea of it, Papa isn't here, the Jackdaw of Rheims**, thus «ðə 'sɒfər əʊvə 'ðəə», «'eɪfər ənd 'æfrɪkə», «ði aɪ'diər əv it», «pə'pɑ:r ɪznt 'hiə», «ðə 'dʒækdo:r əv 'ri:mz».¹

'Linking «r»' is never added to vowel-sounds other than «ə», «ɑ:», «ɔ:» or «ɛ:», and 'intrusive «r»' is never added to vowel-sounds other than «ə», «ɑ:» or «ɔ:».

The use of linking «r» and intrusive «r» is a very noteworthy feature of south-eastern English. There is, however, much variation in the way different people employ them. Many use them both consistently, some employ linking «r» consistently but do not use intrusive «r», some (especially younger people) do not use either; others again use one or the other or both irregularly.

There are four types of consistent pronouncers: (1) those who never use intrusive «r» at all but who always insert linking «r» in the circumstances described in the first paragraph of this Section, (2) those who always insert linking «r» in these circumstances and who introduce an intrusive «r» regularly after words ending in «ə» and «iə» in the same circumstances, (3) those who use linking «r» similarly but who insert intrusive «r» regularly after «ɑ:» and «ɔ:» as well as after «ə» and «iə», (4) those who never use intrusive «r» and either never employ linking «r» at all or confine its use to a few stock expressions such as **for instance, as a matter of fact, later on** («fər 'ɪnstəns», «əz ə 'mætr ə 'fækt», «'leɪtər 'ɔn»).

My own pronunciation used to be, and generally still is, of type (1). In recent years, however, I have occasionally found myself using intrusive «r» after «ə», though not in accordance with any system. I do not use intrusive «r» after «ɑ:» or «ɔ:».

Those whose pronunciation is of type (4) say not only «ðə 'sɒfə əʊvə 'ðəə», «'eɪfə ənd 'æfrɪkə», etc., like those whose pronunciation is of type (1), but also «'ɔ:də əv 'merit», «bɛə 'ʌp», «'kliə it ə'wei», etc.

It does not seem possible to estimate which, if any, of these ways of pronouncing is the commonest among those who speak with RP. When teaching English to foreign learners, I find it convenient to recommend them to speak as type (1).

¹ This last pronunciation was used whenever **jackdaw** was followed by a word beginning with a vowel throughout a fine BBC broadcast of the poem in 1953.

XVI. MEANING OF *

In this Dictionary an asterisk * is placed at the end of every word to which linking «r» is added in appropriate contexts by those whose pronunciation is of the type (1) described in the seventh paragraph of Section XV. Words ending in «ə», «ɑ:», or «ɔ:» which have no asterisk do not take intrusive «r» in the speech of those who pronounce as type (1); they are said with intrusive «r» in the above-mentioned contexts by those who pronounce as type (3).

The asterisk is to be dropped in the transcription of derivatives of words marked with it. Thus the entry

flatter, -s, -ing/ly, -ed, -er/s 'flætə*, -z, -rɪŋ/li, -d, -rə*/z

is to be taken to mean that in RP the words **flatter, flatters, flattering, flatteringly, flattered, flatterer, flatterers** are pronounced «'flætə», «'flætəz», «'flætərɪŋ», «'flætərɪŋli», «'flætəd», «'flætərə», «'flætərəz». And the entry

tar (s.v.), -s, -ring, -red tɑ:*, -z, -rɪŋ, -d

is to be taken to mean that in RP the words **tar, tars, tarring, tarred** are pronounced «tɑ:», «tɑ:z», «'tɑ:rɪŋ», «tɑ:d».

XVII. INCOMPLETE PLOSIVE CONSONANTS

It is to be understood throughout that when two plosive consonants occur next to each other in a word, as in **act** («ækt»), **bedtime** («'bedtaɪm»), the first is pronounced by most people without plosion, or with the least possible plosion. Cases of unexploded stop not coming under this general rule are indicated by placing the sign ° immediately after the consonant symbol (as in «noup°») a variant pronunciation of the interjection **no**).

XVIII. SYLLABIC CONSONANTS

The fact that a consonant is syllabic is marked (by placing the mark , under the letter) only when there might be ambiguity. Thus the syllabic «l» is specially marked in «'flænli» (**flannelly**), because «'flænli» would indicate a pronunciation rhyming with **Hanley**. It is not needful to mark the syllabicity of the «l» in such a word as **bottle** «'bɒtl», since the sound cannot be other than syllabic in this situation.

XIX. SYLLABLE SEPARATION, USE OF THE HYPHEN
AS A PHONETIC SIGN

It is necessary in phonetic notation to have a means of showing 'syllable separation' for use in all circumstances where the absence of suitable marking might lead to ambiguity in the interpretation of a phonetically transcribed word. An indication of a place of syllable separation does not mean that there is any cessation of sound at that place. It means that the sound preceding the place of separation is pronounced as if it were final, and that the sound following is pronounced as if it were initial. This in turn may imply that the syllable preceding the place of separation is said with particular 'allophones' and degrees of length appropriate to final positions, and that the syllable following begins with allophones appropriate to initial positions.

When the second of two consecutive syllables bears a stress (primary or secondary), the place of separation between the syllables is shown by the stress-mark. For instance, the position of the , in «'ʃɪ:t.æŋkə*» (given as the pronunciation of **sheet-anchor** in this Dictionary) shows that there is syllable

separation between the «t» and the «æ». It would be possible to pronounce the same sequence of phonemes with syllable separation between the «i:» and the «t», thus «'ji:təŋkə*», though a word pronounced like this does not happen to exist. This pronunciation would differ markedly in sound from «'jit,əŋkə*». In «'ji:təŋkə*» the «i:» would be fully long and the «t» would be strong and aspirated, but in «'jit,əŋkə*» the «i:» is not very long and the «t» is weak and lacking in aspiration. The principles underlying these differences are explained in my *Outline of English Phonetics*, 1960, §§ 512, 866.

So also if we compare the separated «tr» of «aut'reidʒəs» (**outrageous**) from the non-separated «tr» of «ə'træktiv» (**attractive**), we find that the «t» of «aut'reidʒəs» is weak and the «r» is fully voiced, whereas in «ə'træktiv» the «t» is strong and the «r» is partially or wholly breathed. Again, many English people (including myself) distinguish the «r» of «,ouvə'rɔ:d» (**over-awed**) from that of «,ouvə'rɔ:t» (**overwrought**). The «r» of «,ouvə'rɔ:t» is either the common fricative or the common 'frictionless continuant' sound, but the «r» of «,ouvə'rɔ:d» is or may be the 'flapped' variety described in *Outline of English Phonetics*, §§ 750, 753.

When the second of two consecutive syllables does not need a stress-mark essential syllable separation has to be shown by a special mark. A hyphen is convenient for this purpose, and is used in the present Dictionary.

Thus the hyphen in «'bai-plein» (**biplane**) shows (1) that the «ai» is treated as if it were final and is therefore fully long, in accordance with the principle formulated in *Outline of English Phonetics*, § 866, and (2) that the «p» is treated as if it were initial and that in consequence the «l» following it is breathed or only partially voiced, as explained in *Outline*, § 845 (i)a. The word «'bai-plein» may be compared with «'paip-lain» (**pipe-line**), in which the syllable separation is between the «p» and the «l». Here the position of the hyphen shows (1) that the «p» preceding it is treated as if it were final and that in consequence the «ai» is rather short, in accordance with the principle formulated in *Outline*, § 866, and (2) that the «l», being treated as if it were initial, is fully voiced.

Similarly the hyphen inserted in the transcription «'fel-fif» (**shell-fish**) shows that the «l» is treated as if it were final and is consequently pronounced long as explained in *Outline*, § 881, while the absence of any hyphen in «'selfif» (**selfish**) implies that the «l» is not so treated, but is short on account of the presence of the following «f». «'bi:stɪŋz» (**bee-stings**, stings of bees) is distinguished from «'bi:stɪŋz» (**beestings**, first milk of a cow) in a similar way; the hyphen in «'bi:stɪŋz» shows that the «i:» is fully long, while the absence of hyphen in «'bi:stɪŋz» implies that the vowel is rather short in consequence of the presence of the following «s».

Further examples illustrating the necessity for hyphens as markers of syllable separation are «'tɒu-strəp» (**toe-strap**), which should be compared with «'maʊs-trəp» (**mouse-trap**) and with «'tɒʊst-ræk» (**toast-rack**); «'wɪlt-fə» (**Wiltshire**) which may be compared with «'pɪltʃəd» (**pilchard**). Many others will be found in *Outline of English Phonetics*, 1960, Chap. XXXII.

In the form of transcription used in this Dictionary «tʃ» is always to be taken to be a 'digraph' with the 'affricate' value when the two letters are not separated by a hyphen. See Section XXIV C, p. xxxiii.

The presence of a phonetic hyphen is to be assumed, wherever necessary, in front of the terminations of derivatives and other words grouped under a head-word. Thus it is to be understood in «'delft-weə*» (**Delft-ware**), «'gɒl-pəʊst» (**goal-post**), since the transcriptions «'delftweə*», «'gɒlpəʊst» might be thought to stand for the non-existent pronunciations «'delf-tweə*», «'gɒlp-əʊst».

For the use of - in «i-ə», «u-ə», «ai-ə», «au-ə», etc., see next Section.