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## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Dearest creature in  
creation, study English  
pronunciation.

I will teach you in my  
verse

Sounds like corpse,  
corps, horse, and worse.

I will keep you, Suzy,  
busy,

Make your head with  
heat grow dizzy.

Tear in eye, your dress  
will tear.

So shall I! Oh hear my  
prayer.

Just compare heart,  
beard, and heard,

Dies and diet, lord and  
word,

Sword and sward,  
retain and Britain.

(Mind the latter, how  
it's written.)

Now I surely will not  
plague you

With such words as  
plaque and ague.

But be careful how  
you speak:

Say break and steak,  
but bleak and streak;

Cloven, oven, how and  
low,

Script, receipt, show,  
poem, and toe.

Hear me say, devoid of  
trickery,

Daughter, laughter, and  
Terpsichore,

Typhoid, measles,  
topsails, aisles,

Exiles, similes, and  
reviles;

Scholar, vicar, and cigar,  
Solar, mica, war and

far;

One, anemone,  
Balmoral,

Kitchen, lichen,  
laundry, laurel;

Gertrude, German,  
wind and mind,

Scene, Melpomene,  
mankind.

Billet does not rhyme  
with ballet,

Bouquet, wallet, mallet,  
chalet.

Blood and flood are  
not like food,

Nor is mould like  
should and would.

Viscous, viscount, load  
and broad,

Toward, to forward, to  
reward.

And your  
pronunciation's OK

When you correctly  
say croquet,

Rounded, wounded,  
grieve and sieve,

Friend and fiend, alive  
and live.

Ivy, privy, famous;  
clamour

And enamour rhyme  
with hammer.

River, rival, tomb,  
bomb, comb,

Doll and roll and some  
and home.

Stranger does not  
rhyme with anger,

Neither does devour  
with clangour.

Souls but foul, haunt  
but aunt,

Font, front, wont, want,  
grand, and grant,

Shoes, goes, does.

Now first say finger,

And then singer, ginger,  
linger,

Real, zeal, mauve,  
gauze, gouge and gauge,

Marriage, foliage,  
mirage, and age.

Query does not  
rhyme with very,

Nor does fury sound  
like bury.

Finally, which rhymes  
with enough,

Though, through,  
plough, or dough, or  
cough?

Hiccough has the  
sound of cup.

My advice is to give  
up!!!