



### **ur queer English language**

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
But the plural of mouse in not ever meese.  
You may find a lone mouse, or a whole nest of mice,  
But the plural of house is still never hice.  
If the plural of man is always men  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?  
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth, and a whole set are teeth  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?  
If a singular this is a plural these  
Should the plural of kiss ever be keese?  
We speak of a brother and also call brethren,  
And though we say mother we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim.  
- Alice Hess Beveridge



### **I lost my appetite!**

If GH stands for P as in "hiccough",  
if OUGH stands for O as in "dough",  
if PHTH stands for T as in "phthisis"  
if EIGH stands for A as in "neighbor",  
if TTE stands for T as in "gazette", and  
if EAU stands for O as in "plateau", then

the right way to spell POTATO should be:  
GHOUGHPHTHEIGHTTEEAU!



## Hints on pronunciation for Foreigners!

I take it you already know  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
Others may stumble but not you,  
On hiccough, thorough, lough, and through?  
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,  
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird,  
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead --  
For goodness sake don't call it 'deed'!  
Watch out for meat and great and threat  
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not a moth in mother,  
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,  
And here is not a match for there  
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear;  
And then there's dose and rose and lose --  
Just look them up -- and goose and choose,

And corek and work and card and ward,  
And font and front and word and sword,  
And do and go and thwart and cart --  
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!  
A dreadful language? Man alive!  
I'd mastered it when I was five!



## No wonder English is so hard to learn!

We polish the Polish furniture.  
He could lead if he would get the lead out.  
A farm can produce produce.  
The dump was so full it had to refuse refuse.  
The soldier decided to desert in the desert.  
The present is a good time to present the present.  
At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.  
The dove dove into the bushes.  
I did not object to the object.  
The insurance for the invalid was invalid.  
The bandage was wound around the wound.  
There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.  
They were too close to the door to close it.  
The buck does funny things when the does are present.  
They sent a sewer down to stitch the tear in the sewer line.  
To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.  
The wind was too strong to wind the sail.  
After a number of Novocain injections, my jaw got number.  
I shed a tear when I saw the tear in my clothes.  
I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.  
How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?  
I spent last evening evening out a pile of dirt.