

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? »

English Pronunciation

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If you can pronounce correctly every word in this poem, you will be speaking English better than 90% of the native English speakers in the world. After trying the verses, a Frenchman said he'd prefer six months of hard labour to reading six lines aloud.

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
bleek and sheak
Clouen, oven, how a low
Script, receipt, show, poem and
hoe.

...

Pronunciation – Give the translation and the phonetic symbols for each word.

Corps (terme militaire/ corps de ballet) [kɔ:ʔ]

Corpse [kɔ:ps]

Horse [hɔ:s]

Worse [wɜ:s]

Verse [vɜ:s]

Busy [ˈbɪzɪ]

Grow [grəʊ]

Dizzy [ˈdɪzɪ]

Tear *larme* [tɪə] - *déchirer* [tɛəʔ]

Prayer [preəʔ]

Compare [kəmˈpeəʔ]

Heart [ha:ɪt]

Beard [biəd]

Heard [hɜ:d]

Dies [daɪz]

Diet [ˈdaɪət]

Lord word [lɔ:d] [wɜ:d]

Sword [sɔ:d]

Sward (pelouse) [swɔ:d]

Retain [ri'tein]

Britain ['brɪtən]

Written ['rɪtɪn]

Plague [pleɪg]

Plaque (plaque ornementale ou dentaire) [plæk]

Ague (fièvre) ['eɪgju:]

Break [breɪk]

Steak [steɪk]

Bleak [bli:k]

Streak ((côté) [stri:k]

Cloven (fendu) ['kləʊvən]

Oven ['ʌvən]

How [haʊ]

Low [ləʊ]

Script [skript]

Receipt [ri'si:t]

Show [ʃəʊ]

Poem ['pəʊɪm]

Toe [təʊ]