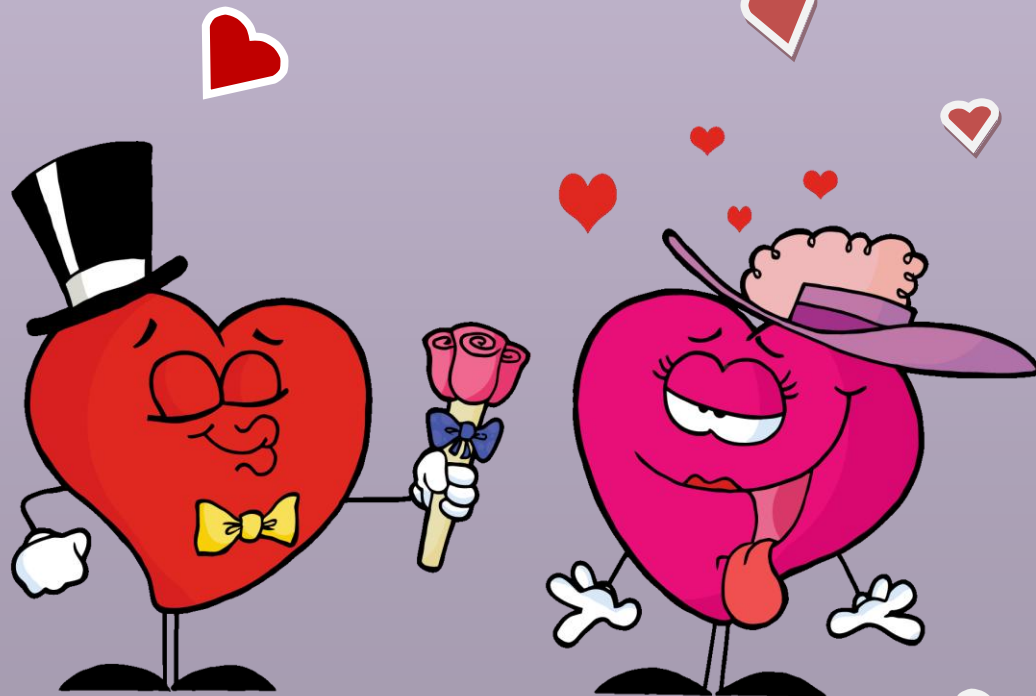


February Bouquet



and
Other Words with Tricky Spellings

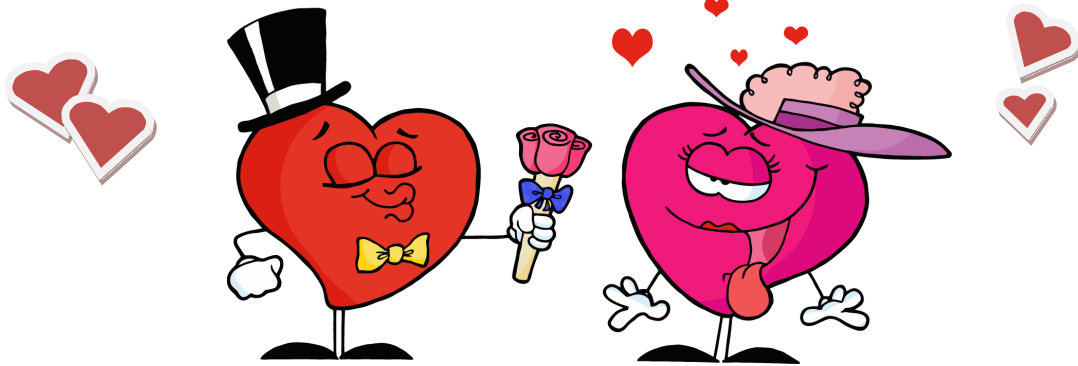
by Margaret Whisnant



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February Bouquet




and

Other Words with Tricky Spellings

Some English words, such as *February* and *bouquet*, are perplexing. They don't look quite right. Their spellings and pronunciations do not match. They are downright tricky, and they have hoards of crafty relatives!

Actually, the whole thing is not surprising since English vocabulary comes from all over the place. Through the centuries we have abducted thousands of words from other languages and changed their pronunciations to make them sound like English without bothering to modify their spelling DNA. Adding to the confusion, English spelling has never been systematically updated, an oversight which has allowed some words to develop renegade letter combinations that refuse to budge.

English *orthography* is stuffed with rule breakers, surprises, inconsistencies, and ambiguities—a fun, challenging puzzle sitting right under our noses! Following is a group of some of our most common spelling mavericks. Their mixed-up letters are written in **bold print**. Use the definitions, the scrambled letters, and a dictionary to identify the words and then write their **correct spellings** in the blanks to the left.

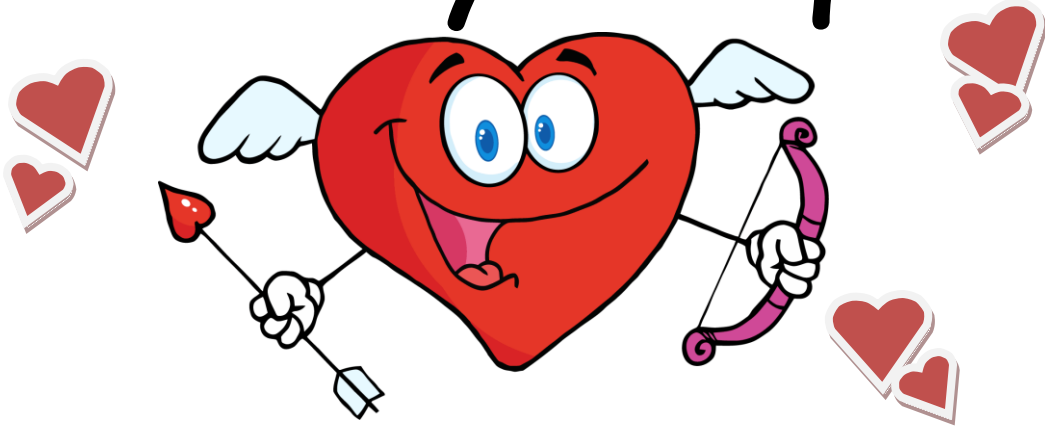
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| _____ 1. e u b a | Another word for <i>boyfriend</i> . |  |
| _____ 2. a i n f é c | A man to whom a woman is engaged. | |
| _____ 3. a i n f é e c | A woman to whom a man is engaged. | |
| _____ 4. b r l i r y a | A room, set of rooms, or a building where books, periodicals, and other materials for reading, viewing, listening, study, etc. are kept. | |
| _____ 5. o u g h d | A mixture of flour or meal and water or milk, used for making bread, pastry, etc.; a slang word for <i>money</i> . | |
| _____ 6. o u c g h | To expel air from the lungs suddenly with a harsh noise, often involuntarily. | |
| _____ 7. e e o f f c | A traditional morning or breakfast drink made from the roasted, ground, or crushed seeds of certain trees. | |
| _____ 8. o u g h b | A branch of a tree, especially a large or main branch. | |
| _____ 9. o u h g h t r | In at one end, side, or surface and out at the other; done with; finished. | |
| _____ 10. a l i n d s | Land completely surround by water and not large enough to be a continent. | |
| _____ 11. o t r f y | The product of four multiplied by ten. | |

February Bouquet and Other Words with Tricky Spellings—*continued*

- _____ 12. **h k e p u t c** A condiment consisting of tomatoes, onions, vinegar, sugar, spices, etc.
- _____ 13. **s r r t t a a u n e** An establishment where meals are served to customers.
- _____ 14. **h h i d e e a f n k r c** A small piece of fabric, usually square, used especially for wiping ones nose, eyes, face, etc., or for decorative purposes.
- _____ 15. **s o o e l** Free from anything that binds or restrains; not tight.
- _____ 16. **s o e l** To come to be without a possession through accident, theft, etc.; to suffer the loss of; to fail to keep.
- _____ 17. **n g b i r o e h** A person who lives near or next to another.
- _____ 18. **h m e c y n i** A vertical structure of brick, masonry, or steel that carries smoke or steam away from a fire, engine, etc.
- _____ 19. **l o o a a r r b y t** A building or room equipped for conducting scientific research.
- _____ 20. **n e e s W a d d y** The fourth day of the week.
- _____ 21. **f b e a r a t s k** The morning meal; food eaten as the first meal of the day.
- _____ 22. **p a i i e r r** A level, or slightly undulating, mostly treeless tract of land with fertile soil and originally covered with coarse grasses.
- _____ 23. **h y r e m** Identical ending sounds in lines of poetry or in individual words.
- _____ 24. **p t e e c i r** A written acknowledgement that payment or delivery has been made.
- _____ 25. **p e e c i r** A list of ingredients and directions for preparing food.
- _____ 26. **c c i i e l** A hanging pendent of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.
- _____ 27. **b d t e** Something that is owed, such as money, goods, or services.
- _____ 28. **h e c a** A continuous, dull pain.
- _____ 29. **h e c a s t m u** Hair growing on the upper lip.
- _____ 30. **i i s c t b u** Bread baked in small, soft cakes; *British*: a cookie
- _____ 31. **k d g e e w l o n** The facts, feelings, or experiences known by a person or a group of people.
- _____ 32. **b e f f u t** A meal laid out on a table, counter, etc. so that diners may serve themselves.
- _____ 33. **l m a o s n** A fish used for food; a color.



February Bouquet



and

Other Words with Tricky Spellings

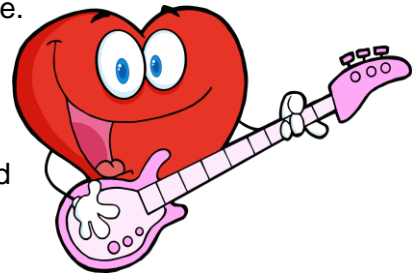
Challenge Words

Following is another collection of English words with quirky spellings. These are more challenging than the group you identified before. Use the **bold print** scrambled letters, the definitions, and a dictionary to reveal their identities. Write their **correct spellings** in the blanks to the left.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. u s s m e o | A light, creamy dish made with eggs, whipped cream, fruit, etc., set with gelatin and often chilled in a mold; a preparation used for styling the hair. |
| _____ 2. o o a e h l c c t | A food made from roasted, ground cacao seeds, usually sweetened and flavored. |
| _____ 3. s s d t r e e | Food served as the final course of a meal, such as strawberry shortcake. |
| _____ 4. s d t r e e | An arid region, sometimes covered with sand; to leave without intending to return. |
| _____ 5. r p o n e e a h c | An adult present to maintain order or good behavior at an activity attended by young people. |
| _____ 6. m g g t r a e o | An agreement in which a person borrows money to buy property, and the lender may take possession of the property if the borrower fails to repay. |
| _____ 7. c u u a m v | A space devoid of matter; an electrical appliance for cleaning carpets, floors, etc. by suction. |
| _____ 8. f f c a e u u r h | A person employed to drive a private vehicle or vehicles for the owner. |
| _____ 9. m o u i i e n l s | A large, luxurious automobile. |
| _____ 10. f t a u e i g | Tiredness: exhaustion. |
| _____ 11. c h p a a u e t r | A fabric canopy connected to a harness used to control the fall of a man or package from an aircraft. |
| _____ 12. b d e i s r | Litter; trash; rubble; remnants of something destroyed or broken. |

February Bouquet and Other Words with Tricky Spellings—Challenge Words—*continued*

- _____ 13. **sgnt eera** The army officer of a rank above that of a corporal.
- _____ 14. **tteeaiulnn** A military officer holding rank below a captain; a person whose job is to perform duties for or represent his or her superior.
- _____ 15. **lloonec** A military officer; an honorary title bestowed by some Southern states to those who bring honor to the state.
- _____ 16. **saarif** A journey for hunting, exploration, or investigation, especially in eastern Africa.
- _____ 17. **cgmfaaouel** A means by which the appearance of an object is altered or obscured so that it is difficult to see.
- _____ 18. **metguro** Descriptive of fancy or exotic foods; a person who cultivates a taste for good food and drink.
- _____ 19. **chyat** A vessel used for private cruising, racing, or other noncommercial purposes.
- _____ 20. **peeout** A wig or hairpiece worn by men.
- _____ 21. **rvzeeousnd** An agreement between two or more people to meet at a certain time and place.
- _____ 22. **olopschgyy** The science that deals with mental processes and behavior.
- _____ 23. **maeevurn** A carefully planned and skillfully executed movement or plot.
- _____ 24. **bnoolag** A large seasoned sausage made of finely ground meat that has been cooked and smoked; nonsense.
- _____ 25. **dpteo** A storehouse or warehouse; a train or bus station.
- _____ 26. **fntercoueti** Forged; made in imitation of something genuine with intent to defraud or deceive.
- _____ 27. **xoiect** Strikingly unusual or strange; foreign; alluring.
- _____ 28. **boacpurd** A piece of furniture or a recessed area with a door concealing storage space.
- _____ 29. **ppouirrt** A mixture of dried flower petals used to scent the air; a mixture of unrelated objects; hodgepodge.
- _____ 30. **wirde** Strange; unusual; suggesting or involving the supernatural.
- _____ 31. **glcraei** A slowly moving large mass of ice formed over many years.
- _____ 32. **eeilcns** Formal permission from a government or other authority to do something, such as run a business or drive a car.
- _____ 33. **ssllmipe** To spell incorrectly.



February Bouquet and Other Words with Tricky Spellings

Answer Keys

Challenge Words

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. beau | 1. mousse |
| 2. fiancé | 2. chocolate |
| 3. fiancée | 3. dessert |
| 4. library | 4. desert |
| 5. dough | 5. chaperone |
| 6. cough | 6. mortgage |
| 7. coffee | 7. vacuum |
| 8. bough | 8. chauffeur |
| 9. through | 9. limousine |
| 10. island | 10. fatigue |
| 11. forty | 11. parachute |
| 12. ketchup | 12. debris |
| 13. restaurant | 13. sergeant |
| 14. handkerchief | 14. lieutenant |
| 15. loose | 15. colonel |
| 16. lose | 16. safari |
| 17. neighbor | 17. camouflage |
| 18. chimney | 18. gourmet |
| 19. laboratory | 19. yacht |
| 20. Wednesday | 20. toupee |
| 21. breakfast | 21. rendezvous |
| 22. prairie | 22. psychology |
| 23. rhyme | 23. maneuver |
| 24. receipt | 24. bologna |
| 25. recipe | 25. depot |
| 26. icicle | 26. counterfeit |
| 27. debt | 27. exotic |
| 28. ache | 28. cupboard |
| 29. mustache | 29. potpourri |
| 30. biscuit | 30. weird |
| 31. knowledge | 31. glacier |
| 32. buffet | 32. license |
| 33. salmon | 33. misspell |

More Words with Tricky Spellings

A Resource List for Busy Teachers *Who Want To Go Another Round or Two with This Topic*

adjective	chorale	ingénue
aisle	coiffure	interpreter
alcohol	column	intrigue
anecdote	connoisseur	jeopardy
annihilate	conscience	kayak
antidote	corpse	khaki
apostrophe	coup	liaison
appliqué	coyote	leisure
acre	crochet	lightning
ballet	cuisine	lingerie
bankruptcy	croissant	literature
barbeque	dachshund	maestro
bargain	debut	maniac
bayou	diarrhea	masquerade
benign	discipline	mayonnaise
boutique	ecstasy	medieval
boudoir	ensemble	mediocre
boulevard	euphoria	miniature
brochure	exert	mistletoe
buoy	excerpt	mosquito
calendar	exhilarating	muscle
campaign	facetious	naïve
cauliflower	fascinating	niche
chandelier	fluorescent	ninety
charades	forfeit	occurred
charisma	government	odyssey
chateaux	handsome	often
Chihuahua	hymn	opaque
choral	hygiene	paraphernalia

pastime	reminisce	technician
patio	repertoire	technique
penitentiary	reservoir	temperature
pharmacy	ricochet	tongue
pharmaceutical	sabotage	tortoise
physician	sandwich	touché
picnic	satellite	tournament
pinnacle	savvy	rhythm
pinochle	scenario	valet
plateau	scissors	vegetable
pneumonia	soldier	veterinarian
poignant	silhouette	victim
prestigious	sluice	vigilante
primeval	sophisticated	villain
protocol	sophomore	vinegar
pseudonym	souvenir	volume
query	spaghetti	vulnerable
quiche	squirrel	weasel
rapport	stomach	whistle
raspberry	subpoena	wrestle
ratio	subterfuge	zucchini
reconnaissance	subtle	
regardless	surgeon	

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