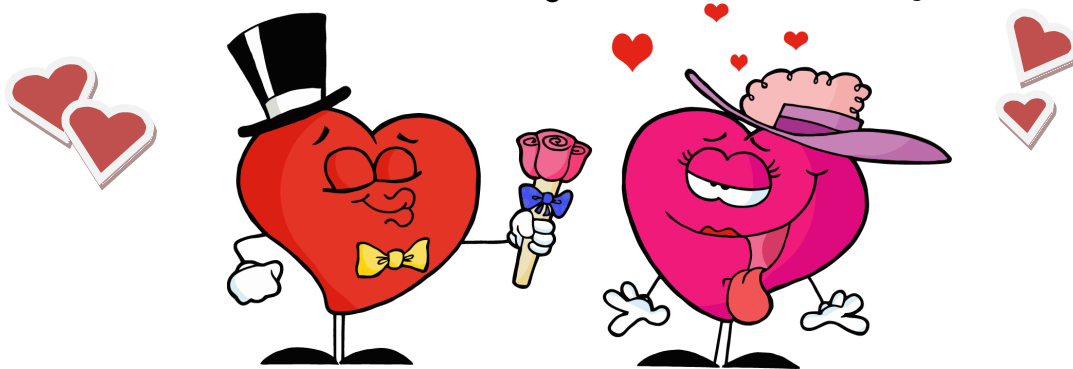


February Bouquet



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 *boyfriend*.

_____ 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 *money*.

_____ 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 b h**

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.

