ENGLISH IS TOUGH STUFF

Multi-national personnel at North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters near Paris found English to be an easy language ... until they tried to pronounce it. To help them discard an array of accents, the verses below were devised. After trying them, a Frenchman said he'd prefer six months at hard labor to reading six lines aloud. Try them yourself.

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. 'dienst 'krixtfer 'ng kri'erfen
'stadı 'nglıf pre'nansi'erfen
'aı wil 'tixtf jur 'nn mar 'vers
'saundz lark 'keres ker 'here end 'sere'
'were 'suzi 'bizi
'in wil 'kip jur 'suzi 'bizi
'in wil 'in bed wið 'hirt greu 'dizi
'tee m 'ar jer 'dres wil 'tee
'seu fæl 'ar eu 'he mar 'pree

brew berd' tron esq'mes trong 'danst kam'pea hart 'brod and 'hard brew' brew' brew' brow' brow' brow' brow' brow' brow' brow' brow' brew' brew'

in sin' ve bicv'ib ise' im end'
ir slav'atet bne' efficil' eticb'
'tais' zliz 'bne' zliz'
'tais' zliz' zliz' 'ailz
'eksaiz' sin' sil' etick'
'spiz bne' ekism' elue's'
'tais' bne ricw' ekism' elue's'
'tais' inbinicl' nekisl' mītil'
'leral' irbinicl' nekisl' mītileg'
'burtieg'
'burtieg'
'burtieg'
'burtieg'
'mamd' nemoq'len mis'

'bilit 'daz not 'ram wið 'bælei 'selei 'lam' tilaw' islaw' bild' bild' bild tan' is bald' bild' bild 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.
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.
Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.
Though the differences seem little,
We say actual but victual.
Refer does not rhyme with deafer.
Foeffer does, and zephyr, heifer.
Mint, pint, senate and sedate;
Dull, bull, and George ate late.
Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
Science, conscience, scientific.

Liberty, library, heave and heaven, Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven. We say hallowed, but allowed, People, leopard, towed, but vowed. Mark the differences, moreover, Between mover, cover, clover; Leeches, breeches, wise, precise, Chalice, but police and lice; Camel, constable, unstable, Principle, disciple, label.

Petal, panel, and canal, Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal. Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair, Senator, spectator, mayor. Tour, but our and succour, four. ænd jo: pro'nansi'ei[nz əu'kei wen ju: ko'rektli 'sei krou'kei 'raundid 'wu:ndid 'griv ond 'siv 'frend ond 'find o'laiv ond 'liv

'arvi 'privi 'ferməs 'klæmə
'amd i'namə 'ram wið 'hæmə
'rivə 'rarvəl 'tum dom 'kəum
'mueh' hore mas' hore luci' hore lob'
'streindəə 'daz not 'ram wið 'ængə
'saul' bət 'faul 'həmt bət 'amt
'faul 'həmt bət 'amt 'saul' hore tari' not 'fail 'grant 'fail 'grant 'fail 'grant 'fail 'grant'
'grant' sət sei 'fingə
'məl ziri 'məuv gərz 'gauda ənd 'geida
'marida 'faul' ali 'grant' 'failus' 'failus'
'marida 'failus' 'failus'
'marida 'fail

'kwiəri 'daz not 'raım wiö 'veri
'noi dəz 'fjuəri 'saund laik 'beri
'dast lost 'pəust ənd 'da0 klo0 'ləu0
'dust lost 'pəust ənd 'da0 klo0 'ləu0
'dust lost 'pəust ənd 'da0 klo0 'ləu0
'dust lost 'pəust ənd 'trænsəm 'əu0
'öəu öə 'difrən,sız sim 'lıtl
'wii sei 'æktʃuəl bət 'vıtl
'wii sei 'æktʃuəl bət 'vıtl
'rifsi daz not 'raım wiö 'defə
'fefə 'daz ənd 'zefə 'hefə
'mint paint 'senit 'ænd sı'deit
'dal 'bul ənd 'dzəidz et 'leit
'simik 'ærəbik pə'sifik
'saiəns 'konʃəns 'saiən'tıfik

'libəti 'laibr'ri 'hiv ənd 'hevn 'reitfəl 'eik mə'staif i'levn 'wii sei 'hæləud 'bat ə'laud 'piipl 'lepəd 'təud bət 'vaud 'maik öə 'difrən sız məi'rəuvə bitwin 'muwə 'kavə 'kləuvə 'litfiz 'britfiz 'waiz pri'sais 'tfælis 'bat pə'lisə ənd 'lais 'kæməl 'konstə bl an'steibl . 'prisipl di'saipl 'leibl

'petl' pænel 'ænd ke'næl
'weit se'praiz plæt 'primis 'pæl
'weit sene' sing micht' bre micht' sene, tene' teite 'mee
'tele 'sek' bre neur 'fo!

Gas, alas, and Arkansas.
Sea, idea, Korea, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria.
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean.
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

Compare alien with Italian,
Dandelion and battalion.
Sally with ally, yea, ye,
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.
Say aver, but ever, fever,
Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.
Heron, granary, canary.
Crevice and device and aerie.

Face, but preface, not efface.
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.
Large, but target, gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust and scour, scourging.
Ear, but earn and wear and tear
Do not rhyme with here but ere.
Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk,
Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

Pronunciation -- think of Psyche!
Is a paling stout and spikey?
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing groats and saying grits?
It's a dark abyss or tunnel:
Strewn with stones, stowed, solace,
gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,
Housewife, verdict and indict.

Finally, which rhymes with enough -Though, through, plough, or dough, or
cough?
Hiccough has the sound of cup.
My advice is to give up!!!

'gæs ə'laıs ənd 'aıkən'soı
'si aı'dı kə'riə 'eənə
'sen thad' eir'em mins'
'gus sauθ 'sağa' klenz ənd 'klim
'dus min'em mat,neqıst' mrthab'

'feis bət 'prefis 'not i'feis
'flem fleg'mætik 'æs glais 'beis
'laidz bət 'taigit 'dzin giv 'vzidzin
'ot aut 'dzaust ənd 'skauə 'skaidzin
'tə bət 'sin ənd 'weər ənd 'teə
'dui not 'raim wið 'hiə bət 'eə
'sevn iz 'rait bət 'səu iz 'iivn
'haifn 'rafn 'nevjui 'stivn
'manki 'donki 'taik ənd 'dzaik
'aisk graisp 'wosp ənd 'koik ənd 'waik

'faməli wit∫ ramz wið ı'n∧f
'δου θτιι 'plau ɔɪ 'dəu ɔː
'kɒf
'hik∧p 'hæz ðə 'saund əv 'kʌp
'maı əd'vaıs ız ˌtu gıv 'ʌp

ruen'na reθic'

-- Author Unknown