

Similarities and Differences of Spelling in English and Romanian

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Rezumat

În acest articol se compară exemple de cuvinte care conțin Regulile de Ortografie în română și engleză. Elementul cheie este diferența dintre scriere și pronunție, corespunzător. Obiectivul principal este de a stabili acea limită vizibilă dintre cele două sisteme și de a nota diferențe și similități.

During the 20th century, many English words were borrowed into the Romanian language. Similar examples can serve such words like: diler – dealer; oficiu – office; trafic – traffic; rută – route; gem- jam; fain – fine; job – job; interviu -interview; meci - match; manager – manager; fotbal -football; sandviș - sandwich; hot-dog – hot-dog; business - business; cec – check; chec - cake. These words are assigned a grammatical gender in Romanian and handled according to Romanian rules; thus "the manager" is *managerul*. The corresponding information from *The Making of the Romanian People and Language*, by Giurescu Constantin (4) presents the following classification regarding the spelling and pronunciation in Romanian, compared to other foreign languages and English:

- *h* is not pronounced with aspiration like in English and not rather silent like in other Romance languages such as Spanish and French, but represents the phoneme /h/, except in the digraphs *ch* /k/ and *gh* /g/;
- *j* represents /ʒ /, as in French or Portuguese (the sound spelled with *s* in the English letter combinations and words 'illusion, vision, pleasure, treasure, measure').
- Two letters of Romanian ABC have a tail or a sort of a comma below, S and I, which reflect the sounds /ʃ / and /tʃs/.
- A final orthographical *i* after a consonant often represents the palatalization of the consonant (e. g. *sac* /sac/ "sac" vs. *saci* /sachi/ "sacks").
- *ă* represents the sound /ə/;
- *î* and *â* both represent the sound /i /. In rapid speech (for example in the name of the country) The nearest equivalent is the vowel in the last syllable of the word *noses* for some English speakers.
- The letter *e* generally represents the vowel [e], somewhat like in the English word *set* pronounced in Romanian.
- *x* represents either the phoneme sequence /ks/ as in *expres* - express, *text* – text or /g z/ as in *examen* - examination, as in English.
- When /k/ and /g / are followed by vowels /e/ and /i/ (or their corresponding or the final /^j /) the digraphs *ch* and *gh* are used instead of *c* and *g*, as shown in the table below.

On the other hand, there are plenty of spelling rules in English according to more sources (9), which are considerably much more numerous than those in the Romanian language. Some of the **Rules For English Spelling** are presented hereafter accordingly to their commonly accepted classification (however there must be taken into consideration the great amount of the number of exceptions from the generally accepted and adopted rules the reason of those ones being a wide range of causes):

1. The letter q is always written with u and we say, "kw." The letter u is not a vowel here (quiet).
2. /c/ before e, i, or y says, "s" (cent, city, cycle).
3. /g/ before e, i, or y may say, "j" (gentle, get).

4. Vowels a, e, o, u usually say, "ā", "ē", "ō", "ū" at the end of a syllable (belong, protect, futile).
5. Vowels i and y may say "ī" at the end of a syllable, but usually say "ĭ" (final and my as opposed to Indian and baby) [for spelling].
6. Vowel y, not i, is used at the end of an English word (for example, my).
7. There are five kinds of silent final e's. The first rule (as in time) is one of the three ways a vowel says its name;
8. o-r may say, "er" when w comes before the o-r (for example, works);
9. We use e-i after c... if we say, "ā" ... and in some exceptions.

Exceptions:

receive, vein, either, neither, foreign, sovereign, seize, counterfeit, forfeit, leisure, either, weird, heifer, protein, geiger, height, sleight, feisty, stein, seismograph, poltergeist, kaleidoscope etc.;

10. s-h is used at the beginning of a word, at the end of a syllable but not at the beginning of any syllable after the first one, except for the ending, "ship." (shut, fish, nation);
11. t-i, s-i and c-i are used to say "sh" at the beginning of any syllable after the first one. c-h says, "sh" in a word of French origin. (nation, session, special, chic);
12. s-i is used to say, "sh" when the syllable before it ends in s (session) and when the base word has an s where the word changes. (tense/tension);
13. Only s-i can say, "zh" except for t-i in "equation." (vision);
14. When a one-syllable word ends with one short vowel and one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix. (hop, hopping/hopped) etc.

English spelling rules go hand in hand with pronunciation rules and that is why they need to be studied and learnt more profoundly than the corresponding ones in the Romanian language. As a supportive material can be exercising and drilling of the following examples presented below:

a) light – lite /l / **b)** just // **c)** tyre – tire /t / **d)** /mi:t/ m hi – high – hie /h / must / / through–
threw /θ / /in/ i

right – write – rite /r/ gust//past – passed /p/ /pi:s/ p
 night – knight /n / trust/ /soul – sole/s / /lai/ l
 by – buy – bye/b /mare / /sun – son/s / /mein/m
 flower – flour /f / are/ /some – sum/s / /rest/ r
 know – no/n / care/ /sow – so – soh/s / /veil/ v
 new – kne /n / bun / /see – sea – C,c /s / /sɔ :/ s
 to – too – two/t /am/ /scene – seen/s / /vein/ v
 four – for – fore /f /far/ /male – mail/m / /wɛ ə / w
 bite – byte /b / pare / / made – maid/m / /wi:k/ w
 sight – site/s / mere //plane – plain /p / /pɛ ə / p
 here– hear/h / bine / /stare – stair/s / /wei/ w
 there – their/ð /ban / /wine – whine/w / /n□ n/ n
 be – bee – B,b /b /turn / /fir – fur /f / /ri:n/ r
 nay – neigh - née/n/case //ore – or – oar/ɔ :/ /rek/ r
 mien – mean /m /orb / /hair – hare/h / /hi:l/ h
 dear – deer/d / surd / /beat – beet /b / /bi:n/ b

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