

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.  
 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.

'diəri:st 'kri:tʃə m kri:'eɪʃ(ə)n  
 'stɑ:di 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ prənʌnsɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n  
 ɪ wɪl ti:tʃ ju: ɪn maɪ vɜ:s  
 saʊnd laɪk kɔ:ps kɔ: hɔ:s ənd wɜ:s  
 ɪ wɪl ki:p ju: n/a 'bɪzi  
 meɪk jɔ: hed wɪð hi:t grəʊ 'dɪzi  
 te: ɪn ɪ jɔ: dres wɪl te:  
 səʊ ʃal ɪ! əʊ hɪə maɪ pre:  
 dʒʌst kəm'pe: hæ:t biəd ənd hə:d  
 di: ənd 'di:ət lɔ:d ənd wɜ:d  
 sɔ:d ənd swɔ:d rɪ'teɪn ənd 'brɪt(ə)n  
 maɪnd ðə 'latə haʊ its 'rɪtn  
 naʊ ɪ 'ʃʊəli wɪl nɒt pleɪg ju:  
 wɪð sʌtʃ əz plæk ənd 'eɪgju:  
 bʌt bi: 'ke:ful haʊ ju: spi:k  
 seɪ breɪk ənd steɪk bʌt bli:k ənd stri:k  
 'kləʊv(ə)n 'ʌv(ə)n haʊ ənd læʊ  
 skrɪpt rɪ'sɪt ʃəʊ 'pəʊm ənd təʊ  
 hɪə mi: seɪ dɪ'vɔɪd ɒv 'trɪk(ə)rɪ  
 'dɔ:tə 'lɑ:ftə ənd tə:p'sɪkəri  
 'taɪfɔɪd 'mi:z(ə)lz 'tɒpsɪl ʌɪs  
 'eksʌɪls 'sɪmɪli ənd rɪ'vaɪls  
 'skɒlə 'vɪkə ənd sɪ'gɑ:  
 'səʊlə 'maɪkə wɔ: ənd fɑ:  
 wʌn ə'neməni bəl'mɒr(ə)l  
 'kɪtʃɪn 'laɪk(ə)n/'lɪʃ(ə)n 'lɔ:ndrɪ 'lɒr(ə)l  
 n/a 'dʒə:mən wɪnd ənd maɪnd  
 si:n mɛl'pɒmɪni mæn'kaɪnd  
 'bɪlɪt dʌz nɒt raɪm wɪð 'bælɪ  
 bʊ'keɪ 'wɒlɪt 'mælɪt 'ʃælɪ  
 blʌd ənd flʌd ɑ: nɒt laɪk fu:d  
 nɔ:, nə ɪz məʊld laɪk ʃʊd ənd wʊd  
 'vɪskəs 'vaɪkaʊnt læʊd ənd brɔ:d  
 tə'wɔ:d tə 'fɔ:wəd tə rɪ'wɔ:d  
 ənd jɔ: prənʌnsɪ'eɪʃ(ə)ns əʊ'keɪ  
 wen ju: kə'rek(t)li seɪ 'krəʊkeɪ  
 'raʊndɪd wu:ndɪd grɪ:v ənd sɪv  
 frend ənd fi:nd ə'lɑɪv ənd lɪv  
 'ɪvi 'prɪvi 'feɪməs 'klamə  
 ənd ɪ'nəmə raɪm wɪð 'həmə  
 'rɪvə 'raɪv(ə)l tu:m bɒm kəʊm  
 dɒl ənd rəʊl ənd sʌm ənd həʊm  
 'streɪn(d)ʒə dʌz nɒt raɪm wɪð 'aŋgə  
 'nlaɪðə dʌz dɪ'vaʊə wɪð 'klaŋgə  
 səʊls bʌt faʊl hɔ:nt bʌt ɑ:nt  
 frɒnt frʌnt wəʊnt wɒnt grænd ənd grɑ:nt  
 ju:s gəʊz dʌz naʊ fə:st seɪ 'fɪŋgə  
 ənd ðen 'sɪŋə(r) 'dʒɪndʒə 'lɪŋgə  
 ri:l zi:l məʊv gɔ:z gəʊdʒ ənd geɪdʒ  
 'mæɪdʒ 'fəʊlɪdʒ 'mɪrɑ:ʒ ənd eɪdʒ  
 'kwɪəri dʌz nɒt raɪm wɪð 'veri  
 nɔ: dʌz 'fjʊəri saʊnd laɪk 'beri  
 dʌst lɒst pəʊst ənd dʌθ klɒθ læθ  
 dʒəʊb nɒb 'buz(ə)m 'træns(ə)m əʊθ  
 ðəʊ ðə 'dɪf(ə)r(ə)nss si:m 'lɪt(ə)l  
 wi: seɪ 'æktʃʊəl bʌt 'vɪt(ə)l

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.  
 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, scouring.  
 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!!!

rɪ'fə: dʌz nɒt raɪm wɪð de'fə  
 n/a dʌz ənd 'zefə 'hefə  
 mɪnt paɪnt 'senɪt ənd sɪ'deɪt  
 dʌl bʊl ənd dʒɔ:dʒ ɛt leɪt  
 'si:nɪk 'arəbɪk pə'sɪfɪk  
 'saɪəns 'kɒnʃ(ə)ns saɪəns'tɪfɪk  
 'lɪbətɪ 'laɪbrəri hi:v ənd 'hev(ə)n  
 n/a eɪk mə'sta:ʃ rɪ'lev(ə)n  
 wi: seɪ 'hæləʊd bʌt ə'laʊd  
 'pi:p(ə)l 'lepəd təʊd bʌt vəʊd  
 mɑ:k ðə 'dɪf(ə)r(ə)nsəs mə:r'əʊvə  
 bɪ'twi:n 'mu:və 'kʌvə 'kləʊvə  
 li:tʃɪz 'brɪtʃɪz brɪ:tʃɪz waɪz prɪ'saɪs  
 'tʃəlɪs bʌt pə'li:s ənd laɪs  
 'kəm(ə)l 'kɒnstəb(ə)l ən'steɪb(ə)l  
 'prɪnsɪp(ə)l dɪ'saɪp(ə)l 'leɪb(ə)l  
 'pet(ə)l 'pæn(ə)l ənd kə'næl  
 weɪt sə'praɪz plæt 'prɒmɪs pæl  
 wə:m ənd stɔ:m feɪz 'keɪns tʃe:  
 'senətə spek'teɪtə me:  
 tə bʌt əʊə ənd 'sʌkə fɔ:  
 gæs ə'las ənd 'ɑ:kənsɔ:  
 si: ə'dɪə kə'rɪə 'e:ɪə  
 sɑ:m 'mɑrɪə bʌt mə'leɪrɪə  
 ju:θ saʊθ 'sʌð(ə)n klɛnz ənd kli:n  
 'dɒktrɪn 'tə:p(ə)ntaɪn mə'ri:n  
 kəm'peɪ: 'eɪlɪən wɪð rɪ'tæljən  
 'dændɪlɪən ənd bə'tælɪən  
 'sali wɪð 'aləɪ jeɪ ji:  
 əɪ əɪ əɪ əɪ weɪ ənd ki:  
 seɪ ə'və: bʌt 'evə 'fi:və  
 'nɪəðə- 'leʒə skeɪn dɪ'si:və  
 'her(ə)n 'græn(ə)rɪ kə'nɛ:ri  
 'kreɪvɪs ənd dɪ'vaɪs ənd 'ɪəri  
 feɪs bʌt 'pɹefəs nɒt rɪ'feɪs  
 flɛm flɛg'matɪk əs glɑ:s beɪs  
 lɑ:dʒ bʌt 'tɑ:ɡɪt dʒɪn ɡɪv 'və:dʒɪn  
 ɔ:t əʊt dʒəʊst ənd 'skaʊə 'skə:dʒɪn  
 ɪə bʌt ə:n ənd we: ənd te:  
 du: nɒt raɪm wɪð hɪə bʌt ɛ:  
 'sev(ə)n ɪz raɪt bʌt səʊ ɪz 'i:v(ə)n  
 'hʌɪf(ə)n 'rʌf(ə)n 'nefju: 'sti:v(ə)n  
 'mʌŋki 'dɒŋki tək ənd dʒək  
 ɑ:sk grɑ:sp wɒsp ənd kɔ:k ənd wək  
 prənʌnsɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n θɪŋk ɒv 'saɪki  
 ɪz ə 'peɪlɪŋ stəʊt ənd sprʌɪki  
 wəʊnt ɪt meɪk ju: lu:z ʒɔ: wɪts  
 'raɪtɪŋ grəʊts ənd 'seɪnɪŋ grɪts  
 ɪts ə dɑ:k ə'bɪs ɔ: 'tʌn(ə)l  
 stru:n wɪð stəʊns 'sɒlɪs 'ɡʌn(ə)l  
 n/a ənd əɪl ɒv waɪt  
 'haʊswaɪf 'və:dɪkt ənd ɪn'daɪt  
 'fʌɪnəli wɪtʃ raɪms wɪð rɪ'nʌf  
 ðəʊ θru: pləʊ ɔ: dəʊ ɔ: kɒf  
 'hɪkʌp hɑz ðə saʊnd ɒv kʌp  
 mʌɪ əd'vaɪs ɪz tə ɡɪv ʌp