

Sum 108



The Chaos

— own, pwn, alpha, noob, w00t, ligma

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Impressum

Introduction

Most of you know I started off as a translator. I like languages, the English one in particular. A long time ago, I came across a poem, written in 1920 by Dutch writer [Gerard Nolst Trenité](#). He called it [The Chaos](#), as it listed numerous spelling and pronunciation [SNAFUs](#), making a decent case for “[English is three kids in a trench coat posing as a language](#)”.

As does life, language evolves. English is certainly not [FUBAR](#), and The Chaos has taken on many forms over the years. Guided by OxCam's Mrs. Merriam-Webster and one Mr. Collins, someone Finnegans Waked it – and the following is a short version. Enjoy.

I.

Greetings creature, great, creation
Pronounce, pronouns, pronunciation
Psyche, [psyche](#), like, curse this verse
And its corpse, corps, horse and worse

Yeats eats Phish, Bysshe, Suzy, busy
Once one's head with heat grows dizzy
Tear in eye, chert, shirt will tear
Queer, fair, seer, weir, here, prayer

Pray, tray, trey, way, weigh, whey, poet
Make my shirt look blue, new, sew it
Dear, deer, hart, heart, hear, hurt, heard
Dies and diet, lord and word

Sword and sward, retain and Britain
Celts and Celtics, Briton, written
Celts and Celtics, made and bade
Say – said, pay – paid, laid but plaid

Plagiarists, lag, plage might plague you
Vague, The Hague might give you ague
Heath, teeth, breath and breathe to speak
Say: gush, bush, steak, streak, break, bleak

Previous, precious, fuchsia, via
Recipe, pipe, studding-sail, choir
Woven, oven, how and low
Script, receipt, shoe, poem, toe

II.

Sergeant Slaughter, [chickaree](#), trickery
Drafter, laughter, psi, Terpsichore
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles
Missiles, similes, les, reviles

Wholly, holly, signal, signing
Holy, same, examining, mining
Scholar, vicar, and cigar
Solar, [mica](#), war and far

Desire, desirable, admirable, admire
Lumber, plumber, beer, [bier](#), [brier](#)
Topsham tops [brougham](#), renown, known
Knowledge, done, lone, gone, none, tone

One, anemone, morale, [balmoral](#)
Kitchen, [lichen](#), [lich](#), lawn, laundry, laurel
Gertrude, German, wind and wind
Beau, kind, kindred, queue, mankind

Tortoise, turquoise, chamois-leather
Reading, Reading, heathen, heather
Heat, meet, suite, and labyrinth
Moss, gross, brook, brooch, ninth, and plinth

Deaf, idea, dear, endeavoured
Every, eve, revered and severed
Demon, lemon, ghoul, foul, soul
Peter, petrol and patrol

III.

Fillet, fillet, fillet, ballet

Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet

Blood and flood and food and wood

Sold and mould and should and would

Banquet is not nearly parquet

Bang, quit, car key, kaki, khaki

Discount, viscount, load and broad

Toward, to forward, to reward

Ricocheted, crocheting, croquet

Roque, its rogue is fairly ok

Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve

Friend and fiend, alive and live

Okur, okurr, correct, higher

Keats meets Meyer, flier, liar

Hugh, hug, Hume, hum, hood, but hoot

Boyish, minute, buoyant, minute

Say abscission with precision

Pepys, position, Tethys, transition

Tally, ally, time, and rhyme

Couscous, viscous, discus, paradigm

Twopence, threepence, halfpenny, easy

Cease, please, crease, tease, grease and greasy

Cornice, nice, valise, revise

Maybes, babies, lullabies

IV.

I ate eight, height, lightly cautious
Tortious, serious, osseous, [nauseous](#)
Do envelop lists, elope
Linen-lined signed envelope

Moor, Moor, more, though? Thou shalt have it
[Affidavit](#), David, [davit](#)
To abjure, to perjure, shake, Sheik
Iron, ironic, check, Czech, ache

Liberty, library, heave and heaven
Rachel, loch, moustache, eleven
Hall and hallowed, but allowed
People, leopard, towed but vowed

Ante, anti, tea, tie, Dover
Anti, mover, plover, plover, over
Leeches, [breeches](#), wise, precise
Chalice, but police and lice

Camel, constable, unstable
Principle, disciple, label
Petal, penal, anal, canal
[Plait](#), plate, surmise, [plait](#), promise, pal

Suit, suite, ruin. Circuit, conduit
[Koel](#), coal, “shirk it” and “beyond it”
Maelstrom, mellow, [bel](#), [Bel](#), bell, belle
It is pall, mall, but Pall Mall

V.

Muscle, muscular, gaol, iron
Timber, climber, bullion, lion
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair
Senator, spectator, mayor

Ivy, privy, famous, clamour
Ach, drachm, dram, warm, arm and hammer
Pussy, hussy and possess
Desert, but desert, address

Golf, wolf, countenance, lieutenants
Hoist in lieu of flags left pennants
Courier, courtier, tomb, bomb, comb
Cow but Cowper, some and home

Solder, soldier, tick, thice, thicker
Crucible, crucial, liqueur, liquor
Shoe, hoe, sleigh, slay, blew, bleu, blue
Brave, bravado, mikado, ado

Stranger, dangle, danger, anger
Bauer, power, devour, clangour
Pilot, pivot, gaunt, but aunt
Font, front, wont, want, grand and grant

Arsenic, specific, scenic
Relic, rhetoric, hygienic
Gooseberry, goose, and close, but close
Paradise, rise, rose, and dose

VI.

Say inveigh, nay, neigh, inveigle
Pair, pear, need, knead, ear, and eagle
Meant, meandering but mean
Valentine and magazine

Posh, [gosh](#), gauche, gosh, hennypenny
[Mani](#), mani-pedi, many
Full, fold, fault. Say rapier, pier
Tier – one who ties – tear, tier

Arch, archangel, jell, does [erring](#)
Rhyme with herring or with [stirring](#)?
Prison, bison, treasure trove
Treason, hover, cover, cove

Perseverance, severance. [Ribald](#)
Rims, rimes, rhymes, Pi, [piebald](#), nibbled
Phaeton, paeon, gnat, ghat, gnaw
Lien, lien, psychic, Bon, bone, pshaw

Own, down, [slough](#), [slough](#), ruff, [slough](#), rough it
Barren buffet, Warren Buffet
Brood, stood, roof, rook, school, wool, boon
Worcester, Boleyn, to impugn

Lector Lecter, ice Clarice, [sterling](#)
Hearse, hear, hearken, cure and curling
Evil, devil, mind and mint
Men and women, Lind and Flynt

VII.

You knit, unit, pay, attention
Bench, mensch, a nuchslap, a tension
Larva, lava, pores, pause, pours, paws
Amen, amen, ramen, yours

Dud and dude, ink, zinc, included
Shoot it, mute it, you two, too, did
Rhinoceros, a unicorn
Rhino, zeroes, Vaughan and Strachan

Ensign, sign, fine, faint, feint, comely
Feasible, a pheasant, Cholmondeley
Mood and prude, and Froude, and proud
Connor – the honour our – MacLeod

Moe, amoeba, trivial, vial
Tripod, menial, denial
Troll and trolley, realm and ream
Schedule, mischief, schism, and scheme

Argil, gill, Argyll, gill. Surely
Bruise, Jews, muse sick, music, Raleigh
Physics, phylum, saying sleigh
Slay, piquet, sour, soubriquet

Quest, quête, invalid invalid
Mallard, mall, Paul, palled and pallid
Insult, insult, couchant, uncouth
Portsmouth, mouth, Ruthledge, Ruth

VIII.

Zeus, Thebes, Thales, Aphrodite
Paramour, enamoured, flighty
Episodes, antipodes
Acquiesce, and obsequies

Monk, munk, monkey, funky, geyser
Devil ray, rays, raze, raise, razor
[Muni](#), [muni](#), [moony](#), pure
Nature, stature and mature

Pious, impious, limb, climb, glumly
Worsted, worsted, crumbly, dumbly
Conquer, conquest, vase, phase, fan
[Wan](#), sedan, [artisanal](#), artisan

The TH, it should not trouble you
[Thoth](#), Thoth, [thother](#), whip, whip, W
Thomas, thyme, Theresa, Thames
Envoi, envoy, enjoy gems

Thompson, Chatham, Waltham, Streatham
Umbrage, Tunbridge Wells, forget 'em
Baroque, barrack, Anthony
Barack Hussein, anxiety

Latte, Latin, late, albeit
Bite, byte, bait, eight, great, greet, see it
With, forthwith, tulip, spatula
[Ballack](#) ball lack, bachelor

IX.

Shoes, goes, does, Mia, Rhea, finger
Singer, ginger, injure, linger
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze and gauge
Marriage, foliage, mirage, age

Hero, heron, query, very
Parry, tarry, fury, bury
Dost, lost, post, and doth, cloth, loth
Job, [Job](#), blossom, bosom, oath

[Faugh](#), [oppugnant](#), keen oppugners
Bowing, bowing, banjo-tuners
Holm you know, but noes, canoes
[Puisne](#), puny, truism, use, use

Vandalize, candle eyes, little
Jeremy, jeremiad, actual, victual
Seat, sweat, chaste, caste, Leigh, eight, height
Put, nut, granite, and unite

Reefer, queefer, Dearborn, deafer
Feoffor, feoffee, zephyr, heifer
Dull, bull, Geoffrey, George, ate, late
Hint, pint, senate, but sedate

Gaelic, Arabic, pacific
Science, conscience, scientific
Tour and our, dour, succour, four
[Canthus](#), Kansas, Arkansas

X.

Say manoeuvre, yacht and vomit
Next omit, which differs from it
[Boner](#), bona fide, alibi
Gyrate, dowry and awry

Sea, idea, guinea, area
Psalm, Maria, but malaria
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean
Doctrine, turpentine, marine

Compare alien with Italian
Dandelion with battalion
Rally with ally; yea, ye
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, key, quay

Say aver, but ever, fever
Neither, leisure, skein, receiver
[Puna](#), puny, pun, and [smellf](#)
Delve, calves, valves, half, Ralf and shelf

Starry, granary, canary
Crevice, but device, and eyrie
Face, but preface, grimace, grimace
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass

Bass, large, target, gin, give, verging
Ought, oust, joust, and scour, but scourging
[Boesky](#), sky, ear, earn, ere, tear
Boeing, [Boehner](#), ski, here, heir

XI.

O of off and often, often
Poo, Pooh, [Phuket](#), ore and orphan
Fort, Ford, Oxford, saw and sauce
Also soft, lost, cloth and cross

Pudding, puddle, putting. Putting?
Yes, at golf it rhymes with shutting
Respite, spite, consent, resent
Liable, liar, parliament

Composure, sure, seven, even
Hyphen, roughen, nephew, Stephen
Monkey, donkey, clerk and jerk
[Asp](#), grasp, wasp, demesne, cork, work

A of valour, vapid, vapour
S of news, compare newspaper
G of gibbet, gibbon, gist
I of antichrist and grist

E: Mercedes, diverse, divers
Rivers, strivers, shivers, fivers
Once, but nonce, toll, doll, but roll
Polish, Polish, poll and poll

Palette, pellet, palate, late
Ate, ate, Pilate, pile ate
Finegold, Feingold, Sinn Fein, fine
Wiener, weinerwurst, Frankenstein

XII.

Ismay, dismay, abyss, tunnel
Ballock, bollock, rowlock, gunwale
Islington, and Isle of Wight
Housewife, verdict and indict

Dreadnought, naughty, hormone, rather
Lather, lather, bather, father
And, pray tell, which rhymes with enough
Though, through, bough, cough, hough, sough, tough?

Hiccough has the sound of World Cup
Goshdarnit brotherpuck ... word up!
Lavigne, ravine, Glavine, glaven
Flavor flavour, hoyvinmayvin

Insults fit to throw a fit:
“You are shit” and “you ain’t shit”
“You are not shit” – to console
“You are the shit” – up the pole

But to say you’re not quite lit
Would be “You are not the shit”
Lowell, Sprewell, mushy, Sushi
Later Latrell, pushy, douchy

Execute, executive, bicycle, recycle
Hive, give, live, live, life, Gael, Michael
Looter, polluter, Lollapalooza
Who’s your hoosier, boozier, bruiser?

XIII.

Gif, jif, gif, wrist, [Rist](#), vain, vein
Enos, penis, Denis, [Dwyane](#)
Thrilling, ham, you're killing 'em
Gilligan from Gillingham

[Paget Brewster](#) uses caulk
Ageless rooster, [rookus](#), cock
[Brewski](#), [Bruschi](#), Busch, bush, flush
Anheuser, heuristic, tush and thrush

Romanian, [Cromagnon](#), magnum, do not
[Cromulent](#), dour, dough, d'oh, donut
Kirk, jerk, car, [Picard](#), card
[Riker](#), [rikka](#), [rhebok](#), scarred

[Baganda](#), bag, bagel, bugle
Frunk, [frug](#), [Fructidor](#), frugal
The scent, dissent, discard, discord
Yahweh, oy vey, diss, chord, this court

Colon, colony, sundae, Colonel
[Wen](#), whence, Wednesday, Sunday, kernel
Friend, fries, Friday, [Munn](#), [mun](#), Monday
[Tuareg](#), Tuesday, thirsty, Thursday

Amadeus, mad, Sam, same, man, mane
Zaius, Seuss, Zeus, again, a gain, pain, pane
Own, pwn, alpha, noob, w00t, ligma
Alfa, beta, bet, sigh, sigma

XV.

Not Hugh, you knot, night, [nife](#), [nife](#)
Nice, nice, brook, Brooke, Nick, Nik, Nike
Séance, Sean, Jean, Jean, jeans, genie
Seat, [mee](#), [mi](#), [mie](#), Seat Mii

Medical, sedative, cellar
Medicinal, sedated, dweller
Aero, aerobics, cheat sheet, tabled
Hero, weary, [swearobics](#), labelled

Male, tamale, uno, unkempt
Template, contemplate, contempt
Tempting, tempo, temporal, nacho
Apache, snatching, [catenaccio](#)

Epic tome, epitome, freak, ticklish
Hyperbole, freed, rice, licorice
Camembert, camera, Cambridge, came
Mundane, boing, yoink, zoinks, mundane

Major, majority, misty, miser
[Bajor](#), Bajoran, wistful, wiser
Pseudo, soothing, ixnay, amscray
Musky, musing, trash is ashtray

Feisty, keister, naked, anus
[Frerotte](#), [Favre](#), baked, heinous
Lows, clothes, broth, brother, Coke, [Koch](#), [Koch](#), [Koch](#)
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch

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Porta Sophia – in medias res

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