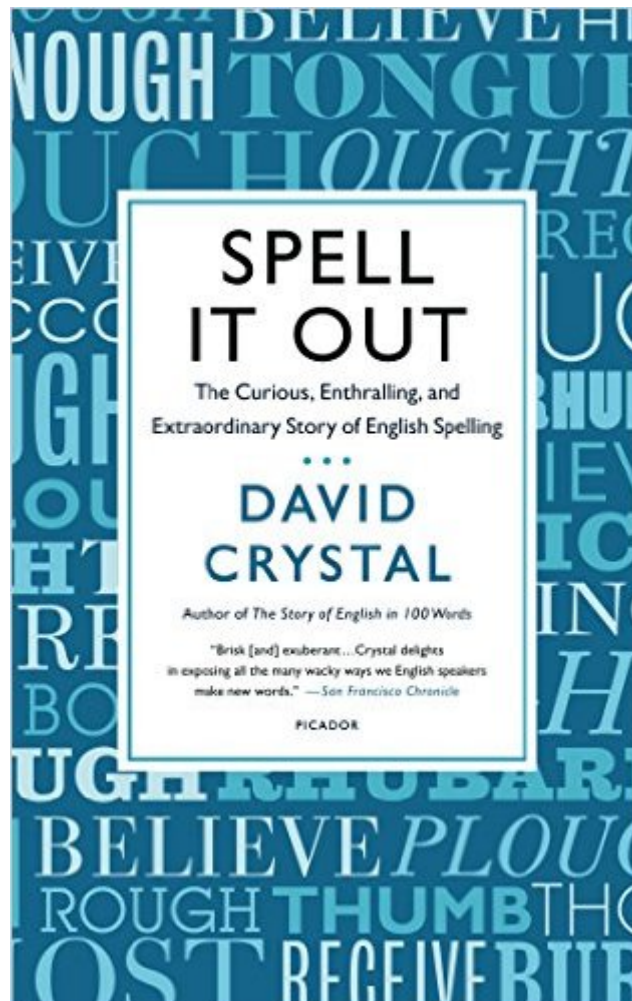


## The book was found

# Spell It Out: The Curious, Enthralling, And Extraordinary Story Of English Spelling



## Synopsis

THE FASCINATING AND SURPRISING HISTORY OF ENGLISH SPELLING FROM DAVID CRYSTAL, EVERYONE'S FAVORITE EXPERT LOGOPHILE With *The Story of English in 100 Words*, David Crystal took us on a tour through the history of our language. Now, with *Spell It Out*, he takes on the task of answering all the questions about how we spell: "Why is English spelling so difficult?" Or "Why are good spellers so proud of their achievement that when they see a misspelling they condemn the writer as sloppy, lazy, or uneducated?" In thirty-seven short, engaging and informative chapters, Crystal takes readers on a history of English spelling, starting with the Roman missionaries' sixth century introduction of the Roman alphabet and ending with where the language might be going. He looks individually at each letter in the alphabet and its origins. He considers the question of vowels and how people developed a way to tell whether or not it was long or short. He looks at influences from other cultures, and explains how English speakers understood that the "o" in "hopping" was a short vowel, rather than the long vowel of "hoping". If you've ever asked yourself questions like "Why do the words "their", "there" and "they're" sound alike, but mean very different things?" or "How can we tell the difference between "charge" the verb and "charge" the noun?" David Crystal's *Spell It Out* will spell it all out for you.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Picador; Reprint edition (December 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250056128

ISBN-13: 978-1250056122

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.9 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #507,852 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Â Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Spelling #146 in Â Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Phonetics & Phonics #1086 in Â Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Grammar

## Customer Reviews

Professor Crystal shows us that there are EXPLANATIONS for the bewildering variety of English spelling, but at the end I felt like adapting a French proverb: "tout comprendre n'est pas tout

rappeler", even if in the last chapter is a Teaching Appendix he gives us a few guides of how to teach and how not to teach children how to spell. He maintains that "the underlying system [of spelling] is robust and regular, BUT STRUGGLES TO BE VISIBLE THROUGH THE LAYERS OF ORTHOGRAPHIC PRACTICE ..." The second part of that sentence is only too true! Spelling has a history, and it begins with the problems presented to Early English scribes, who were monks schooled in Latin, in using the Roman alphabet of 23 letters (no u, no w and no j) to express a range of about 37 sounds (phonemes) in Anglo-Saxon speech. They added just four letters (which the French scribes who came with the Normans would do away with: two different ones for th, the runic one for w, - which they replaced with our w in the 13th century - and *ǣ* for the vowel a as in "man"). Runes were letters of pre-Latin alphabets used before the monks arrived. Wikipedia tells me that the Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet had 34 characters; but the monks rejected them (with two exceptions) because, Crystal says, they were considered to be too associated with paganism. [I would have thought it was more because monks had been brought up with Roman characters which, moreover, had international currency in the Western Christian world.] There were some "rules" (with lots of exceptions) for these transcriptions, but they were not standard, not least because there were regional variations of pronunciation.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Spell It Out: The Curious, Enthralling, and Extraordinary Story of English Spelling  
STEM to Story: Enthralling and Effective Lesson Plans for Grades 5-8  
Talk English: The Secret To Speak English Like A Native In 6 Months For Busy People (Including 1 Lesson With Free Audio & Video) (Spoken English, listen English, Speak English, English Pronunciation)  
Buried in the Sky: The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpa Climbers on K2's Deadliest Day: The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpa Climbers on K2's Deadliest Day  
2nd Grade Spelling Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Building Better Spelling Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Language Arts Flashcards)  
1st Grade Spelling Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Building Better Spelling Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Language Arts Flashcards)  
Kindergarten Spelling Flashcards: 240 Flashcards for Building Better Spelling Skills Based on Sylvan's Proven Techniques for Success (Sylvan Language Arts Flashcards)  
Spelling Smart!: A Ready-to-Use Activities Program for Students with Spelling Difficulties  
Spelling Made Simple: Improve Your Spelling with This Practical, Self-Teaching Guide  
If You're So Smart, How Come You Can't Spell Mississippi? (A Story About Dyslexia) (Adventures of Everyday Geniuses)  
GAY: EROTICA: Straight to GAY - 11 Book MegaBundle of First Time Gay Sex Stories: Bisexual Curious Forced MM Romance Sex LGBT Short Story New Adult Contemporary Cowboy Cheating Taboo Forbidden

Uncovering the Logic of English: A Common-Sense Approach to Reading, Spelling, and Literacy  
Better Spelling in 30 Minutes a Day (Better English Series) Teach Your Child - 100 Words To Read,  
Write, Spell and Draw: Dyslexia Games Presents: 100 Words That Every Child Should Master By  
Age 10 - An Animal ... Books - By The Thinking Tree) (Volume 1) The Modern Witchcraft Spell  
Book: Your Complete Guide to Crafting and Casting Spells Witchcraft: The Big Spell Book: The  
ultimate guide to witchcraft, spells, rituals and wicca Learn How to Do Witchcraft Rituals and Spells  
with Your Bare Hands (Witchcraft Spell Books Book 1) Witchcraft: The Ultimate Bible: The Definitive  
Guide on the Practice of Witchcraft, Spells, Rituals and Wicca (Witchcraft, Wicca, Spell Casting,  
Spells ... Candle Magik, Magik Spells, Magic Spells) The Good Spell Book: Love Charms, Magical  
Cures, and Other Practical Sorcery Learn How to Do Witchcraft Rituals and Spells with Household  
Ingredients (Witchcraft Spell Books Book 2)

[Dmca](#)