

# A Guide to Crazy English

or

## An Aspirin for the Headaches it Causes

Imagine a time when everyone could write what they heard pretty much as they wished.

*A tyme when thair was plenty of taym*

*for the feu who red to reed.*

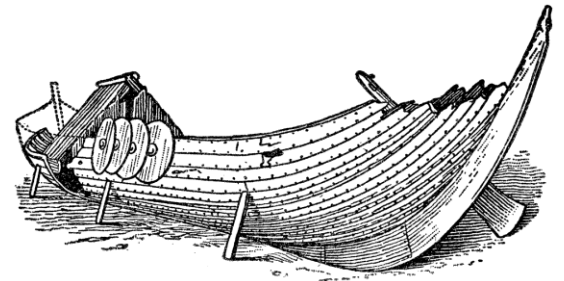
*To daye, thare are tua poyntes to keip in maynd in regaurds to spelling.*

**First**, for every instance of English orthography that gives you trouble, there is very likely a historical reason for it. Few people study history, so these reezonz become as lost as the Bee in Subtle and the Kay in Knight.

There are three major historical events that explain much of English's idiosyncrasies and oddities.

### 1. Vikings!

Norwegian & Anglo-Saxon were spoken side by side for centuries; this took an axe to our grammar, and a torch to the libraries.



### 2. French speaking Vikings!

Known as the Normans, they turned Britain's royalty into bilinguals and the masses into illiterates (though the first Vikings helped with this also).

### 3. The Gutenberg Press & The Great Vowel Shift

The problem being that the former was poorly timed with the latter.



**Second**, the system CAN be learned. Native speakers acquire an innate ability to recognize spelling patterns even if they frequently fumble them in writing. So, don't expect any change. Outside of artificial languages, like Esperanto, languages are not really home to logic, but are **biologically based systematic representations of thought**.

In other words, they are genetically driven computer codes, but unlike the computers we make to have logic, languages are codes from the genes that make us.

To expect languages to be logical is akin to expecting your emotions and your subconscious to be logical as well. While there are a few people who may feel that is a possibility, languages are collective systems, **so majority rules**.

