

another pSecret pSociety pshort pstory



pspelling rewl's by **Mike Bozart** (Agent 33) |
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One of the first things that Ernie the electronic earwig considered doing after creating psecret psociety – the meta-real storybook playground featured on facebook – in 2010 (after Café 23 metaphorically burned to the unsound ground) was creating our own written language. Crazy idea, I know.

Well, we were still going to type in English; we were just going to alter the spelling of certain words. We knew that some would say it was just a goony gimmick. We anticipated this and sharpened our salient hooks.

First up, the only suggestion that got unanimous approval: lead off all words that begin with an s with a silent p. For example, science would be spelled *pscience* and the word spelling would become hyper-correct as *pspelling*. Psychology would not become *ppsychology*, though. We figured a double silent p would be a bit much, even for our motley mental lot.

I will now enumerate some spelling proposals – in chronological order just like they had calendar eyes – that failed to get etched in stone. Some got a majority of support, only to be quashed by a lone veto (which any agent could secretly and anonymously submit). In such case, agents were still welcome to use these unapproved and non-promulgated spelling patterns in the name of merry linguistic mayhem. (Agent 14 has proved to be a first-order master at this.)

Well, the proposal that I, Agent 33, promptly submitted to the ear room, as we fondly call Ernie's micro-office, was to spell words ending with or containing ool and ule as ewl. For

example, let's use this capricious sentence: Charlene, one cool magical lady with a new smartphone from the changing city, saw the foolish schoolboy eat a crimson toadstool.

When we combine the official silent p rule with the non-official ewl rule we arrive at: Charlene, one cewl magical lady with a new psmartphone from the changing city, psaw the fewlish pschewlboy eat a crimson toadstewl.

Next, there was a radical suggestion to do away with the letter c altogether. Startling, I know. A hard c would be spelled with a k; a soft c, with an s. The hard ch digraph (as in march) would be spelled with a strikethrough of a leading brace: Ꞥ. Über-zany.

Additionally, the soft ch digraph (as in chandelier) would become sh. The ck digraph (as in kick) would be spelled kk. The cl and cr digraphs would become kl and kr, respectively. And, finally, the trigraphs sch and chl would become sk and kl, respectively and respectfully.

When Charlie got wind of this extreme notion, he blew up our cell phones. Hey agents, please kill this worthless nonsense. I don't want to become Ꞥarlie or Ꞥukk. It's a krap proposal. DitꞤ it.

I read it twice. All I could think was: *Strange how he went on to use the Ꞥ in his rant. And, wow, his phone can do strikethroughs of text. Charlie must be one of Ernie's pet agents, always getting the best gadgets first.*

When we carefully conjoin the official silent p rule with our two non-official spelling rules, our test-case sentence becomes: Psharlene, one kewl magikal lady with a new

psmartphone from the {anging sity, psaw the fewlish pskewlboy eat a krimson toadstewl.

Another idea floated by one of our outstanding overseas agents was the reversal of f and ph. Thus, the new *fase* is *phantastic*. *Phiscal* and *fysical* health are of *phoremmost* importance. *Pheeble Foebe pheels phaint phrom flebitis*.

And, when we add this f/ph swap to our increasingly strange sentence, we get: Psharlene, one kewl magikal lady with a new psmartfone phrom the {anging psity, psaw the phewlish pskewlboy eat a krimson toadstewl.

Are we done yet? No whey! (Sorry, this is the cliché of a pun that keeps giving.) Plenty more milk of human kindness as well as from a cow's sorrow. Ok, setting aside the old rites for the newly installed rongs, [*sic*] yet another idea was offered by a female agent – one who said that she always hated seeing words end in y, ever since elementary school.

She offered to all of us fine and refined agents an earnest invitation to change all words ending in the sometimes-vowel y to an ie ending; that is, well, the same sound. Hence, we see: *Yesterdaie, lovelie ladie Marie laie quietlie*.

And now, if you combine this latest proposed spelling rule with the previous ones, our quickly-fading-away-from-legible-English sentence becomes: Psharlene, one kewl magikal ladie with a new psmartfone phrom the {anging psitie, psaw the phewlish pskewlboy eat a krimson toadstewl.

But wait, there's more! (Read it like in the tone of a late-night TV commercial barker.) Another clever agent wanted each

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