

comparative and superlative degrees in adjectives, etc. Such inflected forms are not independently listed of course; most derivatives are not given either. Should all these forms be taken into account, the list would be many times longer than it is. This normalization also means that the position of some words on the list may be a bit misleading in that the form which appears here is actually the least often used one. Such is the case of *grandparent*, for example, which occurs about twenty times less often than its plural in running English. Thus, *grandparents* would appear much higher on the list, were it chosen for inclusion. Without going too deep into the lexical statistics of running English, let me simply say that the ordering of the list should be taken as approximate and suggestive rather than as a definitive statement of lexicostatistic fact.

## Appendix 9. Words commonly mispronounced

Over six hundred 'difficult' words are listed in this appendix. The reason why 'difficult' appears in inverted commas above should be clear to a careful reader of this book (and of Chapter 2.2 in particular). There is no universal measure of phonetic difficulty which could be applied to the EFL scene uniformly yielding the same evaluation for each and every word, syllable, cluster or sound. For one, what counts as difficult depends on the native language of the learner. We have been assuming that this is Polish throughout the book, so there is no problem here. For two, what is difficult at one stage of the development of Polish may not be such at another, either because it already ceased to be difficult thanks to intensive practice or because it has not yet started to be perceived as difficult, with other, simpler, problems currently bothering the learner. Examples of both situations are strewn throughout this book. Finally, what is difficult for one learner at a given stage need not be difficult for another at (roughly) the same stage, but with different experience and needs in learning English phonetics.

In this situation it is of course very difficult, indeed impossible, to construct an ultimate list of phonetically troublesome English words. And yet, some words are notorious for their error-proneness, and it is advisable that in a book of this kind they should be collected in one place as a memento and resource, rather than sprinkled indiscriminately all over the book. It is thus unavoidable that some of the words below would have been listed and/or discussed in the body of the book, in connection with phonetic processes affecting them. I believe this repetition is a small price to pay for having them all in one list.

These 'hard nuts' have been collected from experience as well as other books on English phonetics. They are all known for being frequently mispronounced by Polish learners of English at roughly the intermediate stage of Polish competence. Most of the words, however, can be mispronounced in several ways, and it would not be practical to record each such mispronunciation. I decided to list those variants which appeared to me to be the most common errors, but I claim no empirical support for the choice; it is mostly based on my intuition and experience (in a few cases I could not make a final decision, so I left two variants). The ordering by word frequency, on the other hand, is not subjective, and comes from the same source as all frequency-ordered lists of words in this book. Because word frequency correlates quite nicely with the developmental pronunciation difficulty of English words, readers should be able in most cases to find such a region in the list where words 'start' being difficult and continue to be so until the end of the list. For a beginner, this region may be right at the top, whereas an advanced learner may find (almost) all examples easy, down to the end of the list. Most Polish speakers, however, would probably start practising from somewhere in between the two points. Very rare words, which are often very difficult to pronounce, are not included because they are of little use to intermediate learners of English.

In browsing through the list it should be remembered that whatever phonetic problem is identified in a word it will probably also occur in its inflection: plural and Saxon Genitive in nouns, regular past tense, third person singular present tense, and the continuous form in verbs,

spelling:	correct:	error:	col'd	/kəuld/
said	/sed/	/seid/	early	/'ɜ:li/
which	/wɪʃ/	/wɪf/	front	/frɒnt/
their	/ðeə/	/ðei/	area	/'eəriə/
many	/meni/	/'meni/	known	/naʊn/
other	/ʌðə/	/'oðə/	wind, verb	/waɪnd/
people	/pi:pl/	/'pi:pul/	brought	/brɔ:ʊt/
word	/wɜ:d/	/wɔ:rd/	through	/θəʊ/
water	/wɔ:tə/	/'wɔ:tə/	among	/ə'mɒŋ/
only	/əʊnli/	/'əʊnli/	close, adj.	/kləʊz/
through	/θru:/	/θreʊ/	surface	/sɜ:fɪs/
any	/eni/	/'æni/	special	/s'peʃl/
think	/θɪŋk/	/θɪŋ/	certain	/s'etɪn/
old	/əʊld/	/'əʊld/	energy	/e'nɜ:dʒi/
work	/wɜ:k/	/wɔ:rk/	says	/seɪz/
because	/bi'kɔ:z/	/bi'kəʊz/	talk	/tɔ:lk/
world	/wɜ:ld/	/wɔ:ld/	gone	/gɒn/
own	/əʊn/	/aʊn/	power	/paʊə/
saw	/sɔ:/	/səʊ/	plant	/plɑ:nt/
don't	/dəʊnt/	/dɒnt/	outside	/aʊtsaɪd/
thought	/θɔ:t/	/θəʊt/	instead	/ɪn'stɪd/
going	/gəʊɪŋ/	/gɔɪŋ/	mountain	/maʊntɪn/
picture	/pɪktʃə/	/pɪktʃəl/	field	/fɪld/
country	/kʌntri/	/kʌntri/	possible	/pɒ'sɪbəl/
above	/ə'baʊ/	/ə'bəʊ/	live, adj.	/lɪv/
city	/sɪti/	/sɪti/	region	/rɪdʒən/
answer	/ɑ:nsə/	/ɑ:mswə/	walk	/wɔ:lk/
heard	/hɜ:d/	/hɪəd/	iron	/aɪən/
near	/nɪə/	/neə/	island	/aɪlənd/
means	/mi:nz/	/mi:ns/	woman	/wʊmən/
body	/bɒdi/	/bəʊdi/	whose	/hu:z/
money	/mʌni/	/mʌneɪ/	suppose	/sə'pəʊz/
south	/saʊθ/	/səʊθ/	village	/vɪlɪdʒ/
draw	/draʊ/	/draʊ/	he's	/hɪz/
turn	/tɜ:n/	/tɜ:n/	brother	/brʌðə/
group	/grʊp/	/grʊp/	natural	/nætʃərəl/
half	/haɪf/	/haɪf/	captain	/kæptɪn/
			won't	/wɒnt/





<i>wrath</i>	/rəθ/	/ra:θ/
<i>psalm</i>	/sa:m/	/psa:lm/
<i>demon</i>	/di:mən/	/demon/
<i>biscuit</i>	/bɪskɪt/	/bɪskwɪt/
<i>consume</i>	/kən'sju:m/	/kən'sju:m/
<i>cushion</i>	/ku:ʃn/	/ka:ʃn/
<i>sausage</i>	/səʊsɪdʒ/	/səʊsɪdʒ/
<i>bosom</i>	/buzəm/	/buzəm/
<i>stereo</i>	/stɪrɪəʊ/	/stɪrɪəʊ/
<i>aisle</i>	/aɪl/	/aɪl/
<i>stave</i>	/sɪv/	/sɪv/
<i>plaid</i>	/pleɪd/	/pleɪd/
<i>poll</i>	/pəʊl/	/pəʊl/
<i>shove</i>	/ʃʌv/	/ʃʌv/
<i>optimistic</i>	/ˌɒptɪ'mɪstɪk/	/ˌɒptɪ'mɪstɪk/
<i>epidemic</i>	/epɪ'demɪk/	/epɪ'demɪk/
<i>receipt</i>	/rɪ'si:t/	/rɪ'sɪp/
<i>brooch</i>	/brəʊʃ/	/brəʊʃ/
<i>raspberry</i>	/rəz'bɛrɪ/	/rəz'bɛrɪ/
<i>menace</i>	/mə'neɪs/	/mə'neɪs/
<i>burial</i>	/bə'ri:əl/	/bə'ri:əl/
<i>preference</i>	/pɪ'fɛrəns/	/pɪ'fɛrəns/
<i>pansy</i>	/pænzɪ/	/pænzɪ/
<i>execute</i>	/ɪk'sɪkjʊt/	/ɛg'zɛkjʊt/
<i>initiative</i>	/ɪnɪ'ʃɪətɪv/	/ɪnɪ'ʃɪətɪv/
<i>stature</i>	/stætʃə/	/stætʃə/
<i>ache</i>	/eɪk/	/eɪk/
<i>thaw</i>	/θəʊ/	/θəʊ/
<i>epic</i>	/ɪpɪk/	/ɪpɪk/
<i>champagne</i>	/ʃæmp'eɪn/	/ʃæmp'eɪn/
<i>cholera</i>	/kə'lɛrə/	/kə'lɛrə/
<i>detergent</i>	/dɪ'tɛrʒənt/	/dɪ'tɛrʒənt/
<i>Derby</i>	/dɛbɪ/	/dɛbɪ/
<i>patron</i>	/pɛtrən/	/pɛtrən/
<i>geyser</i>	/dʒɛzə/	/dʒɛzə/
<i>heroine</i>	/hɛrəʊn/	/hɛrəʊn/
<i>nationality</i>	/nə'ʃənəlɪti/	/nə'ʃənəlɪti/
<i>Warsaw</i>	/wɔ:so/	/wɔ:soʊ/
<i>satire</i>	/sətəɪ/	/sətəɪ/
<i>prevalent</i>	/prɪ'velənt/	/prɪ'velənt/
<i>Madrid</i>	/mædrɪd/	/mædrɪd/
<i>delicacy</i>	/dɪ'lɪkəsi/	/dɪ'lɪkəsi/
<i>hasten</i>	/heɪsən/	/heɪsən/
<i>sewn</i>	/səʊn/	/səʊn/
<i>attentive</i>	/ə'tentɪv/	/ə'tentɪv/
<i>inhale</i>	/ɪn'heɪl/	/ɪn'heɪl/
<i>chronic</i>	'krɒnɪk/	'krɒnɪk/
<i>puny</i>	'pʌni/	'pʌni/
<i>catastrophe</i>	/kætə'strɒfi/	/kætə'strɒfi/
<i>veranda</i>	/vɛ'rændə/	/vɛ'rændə/

<i>explanatory</i>	/ɪk'splənətɪv/	/ɪk'splənətɪv/
<i>persist</i>	/pə'sɪst/	/pə'zɪst/
<i>admirable</i>	/əd'mɪərəbl/	/əd'maɪərəɪbl/
<i>hasten</i>	/heɪvən/	/hævən/
<i>cleanly</i>	/kli:nli/	/kli:mli/
<i>chandelier</i>	/ʃændə'leɪə/	/ʃændə'leɪə/
<i>demonstrating</i>	/dɛmən'streɪtɪŋ/	/dɛmən'streɪtɪŋ/
<i>parental</i>	/pə'rentl/	/pə'rentəl/
<i>nocturnal</i>	/nɒk'tɜ:nəl/	/nɒk'tɜ:nəl/
<i>eligible</i>	/ɛlɪ'gəbl/	/ɛlɪ'gəbl/
<i>nominative</i>	/nɒmɪ'nɪtɪv/	/nɒmɪ'nɪtɪv/
<i>Anthony</i>	/æntə'nɪ/	/æntə'nɪ/
<i>invalid ('ill')</i>	/ɪn'vəlɪd/	/ɪn'vəlɪd/
<i>edict</i>	/ɪ'dɪkt/	/ɛdɪkt/
<i>appalling</i>	/ə'pɔ:ɪlɪŋ/	/ə'pɔ:ɪlɪŋ/
<i>virtual</i>	/vɜ:ʃju:əl/	/vɜ:ʃju:əl/
<i>studious</i>	/stju:diəs/	/stɜ:diəs/
<i>statute</i>	/stætʃju:t/	/stɛtʃju:t/
<i>inventory</i>	/ɪn'ventɪrɪ/	/ɪn'ventərɪ/
<i>provocative</i>	/prə'vɒkətɪv/	/prə'vɒkətɪv/
<i>amiable</i>	/ə'mɪəbl/	/ə'maɪəbl/
<i>hideous</i>	'hɪdiəs/	'haɪdiəs/
<i>acknowledge</i>	'æk'nɒlɪdʒ/	'æk'nɒlɪdʒ/
<i>preface</i>	'prɛfəs/	'prɛfɛs/
<i>forfeit</i>	'fɔ:fɪt/	'fə'fɪt/
<i>heather</i>	'hedə/	'hi:θə/
<i>appendix</i>	'æpɛndɪks/	'æpɛndɪks/
<i>characterize</i>	'kærəktəraɪz/	'kærəktəraɪz/
<i>adversary</i>	'ædvəsəri/	'əd'vesəri/
<i>arbitrary</i>	'æbɪtrəri/	'æbɪ'trəri/
<i>nausea</i>	'nɔ:ziə/	'nəʊziə/
<i>liquor</i>	'likə/	'likwə/
<i>almond</i>	'æmənd/	'ɒlmənd/
<i>balsam</i>	'bɔ:lsəm/	'bəlsəm/
<i>wag</i>	'wæg/	'wɒg/
<i>heroism</i>	'hɛrəʊɪzəm/	'hɪrəʊɪzəm/
<i>sardine</i>	'sɑ:dɪn/	'sɑ:dəɪn/
<i>vineyard</i>	'vɪnjəd/	'waɪnjərd/
<i>litre</i>	'li:tə/	'li:tə/
<i>condemn</i>	'kɒndɛm/	'kɒndɛm/
<i>lounge</i>	'laʊndʒ/	'laʊndʒ/
<i>alcove</i>	'ælkəʊv/	'ɒlkəʊv/
<i>ration</i>	'reɪʃn/	'reɪʃn/
<i>haunt</i>	'haʊnt/	'haʊnt/
<i>infamous</i>	'ɪnfəməs/	'ɪn'feɪməs/
<i>sedentary</i>	'sedntəri/	'sɛdntəri/
<i>sweaty</i>	'sweti/	'swɪti/
<i>plough</i>	'pləʊ/	'pləʊ/
<i>thyme</i>	'taɪm/	'θaɪm/
<i>relic</i>	'relɪk/	'rɪlɪk/

<i>gooseberry</i>	'guzbəri/	'gusbəri/
<i>resound</i>	'rɪzaʊnd/	'rɪ'saʊnd/
<i>chef</i>	'ʃɛf/	'ʃɛf/
<i>nestle</i>	'nesl/	'nɛstl/
<i>stagger</i>	'stædʒə/	'stædʒə/
<i>delusion</i>	'di:lju:ʒn/	'dɛlju:ʒn/
<i>cohesive</i>	'kəʊhɪsɪv/	'kə'hɛsɪv/
<i>tabloid</i>	'tæblɔɪd/	'tə'blɔɪd/
<i>liqueur</i>	'li:kju:ə/	'li:kwə/
<i>plait</i>	'pleɪt/	'pleɪt/
<i>fetish</i>	'fetɪʃ/	'fi:tɪʃ/
<i>zealous</i>	'zeɪləs/	'zi:ləs/
<i>pyjamas</i>	'pɔ:dʒəməz/	'pi:dʒəməs/
<i>monopolize</i>	'mɒnəpəlaɪz/	'mɒnəpəlaɪz/
<i>generative</i>	'dʒenərətɪv/	'dʒɛnə'reɪtɪv/
<i>Berkshire</i>	'bɜ:kʃɪə/	'bɜ:kʃɪə/
<i>hiccough</i>	'hɪkəp/	'hɪkəʊf/
<i>Xerox</i>	'ziərəks/	'ksɛrɒks/
<i>Leicester</i>	'leɪstə/	'leɪfɪstə/
<i>bigamy</i>	'bɪgəmi/	'bi:gəmi/
<i>bather</i>	'beɪðə/	'bæðə/
<i>sceptic</i>	'skɛptɪk/	'sɛsɛptɪk/
<i>duplication</i>	'dju:plɪkəɪʃn/	'dʌplɪkəɪʃn/

<i>mongrel</i>	'mɒŋgrəl/	'mɒŋgrəl/
<i>Somerset</i>	'sʌməsət/	'sɒməsət/
<i>womb</i>	'wʊm/	'wɒmb/
<i>certIFICATE</i>	'sə'tɪfɪkət/	'sə'tɪfɪkət/
<i>veterinary</i>	'vɛtərɪnəri/	'vɛ'tɪnəri/
<i>cleanse</i>	'kleɪnz/	'klɪnz/
<i>facet</i>	'fæsɪt/	'feɪsət/
<i>bondage</i>	'bɒndɪdʒ/	'bɒndɪdʒ/
<i>palate</i>	'pælət/	'pə'leɪt/
<i>ethic</i>	'eθɪk/	'i:θɪk/
<i>Worcester</i>	'wɜ:stə/	'wɔ:stɛstə/
<i>Burton</i>	'bɜ:tn/	'bɜ:tn/
<i>alibi</i>	'ælibaɪ/	'ælibɪ/
<i>anecdote</i>	'ænikdəʊt/	'ænəgdəʊt/
<i>adequacy</i>	'ædɪkwəsi/	'ə'dɛkwəsi/
<i>satiric</i>	'sætɪrɪk/	'sætɪrɪk/
<i>abominable</i>	'ə'bɒmɪnəbl/	'ə'bɒmɪneɪbl/
<i>caricature</i>	'kærɪkətʃu:ə/	'kærɪ'keɪʃə/
<i>gaol</i>	'geɪl/	'geʊl/
<i>quay</i>	'ki:/	'kwei/
<i>mausoleum</i>	'mɔ:sə'liəm/	'mɔ:zə'liəm/
<i>borough</i>	'bɒrə/	'bɒrəʊ/
<i>phlegm</i>	'flem/	'flɛgm/