

PLAYING WITH OUGH

SUSAN THORPE

Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorped@hotmai.com

Pronunciation-wise the most eclectic of all letter groups, OUGH has periodically received due attention in Word Ways. My reference for *PLAYING WITH OUGH* is *THROUGH TOUGH THOROUGH THOUGHT* by Christopher McManus (WW May 1993 page 87) in which he lists 28 pronunciations of OUGH.

Below, the OUGH pronunciation in the first word is substituted for the OUGH pronunciation in the second word to make the third word.

SLOUGH* is in Berkshire, U.K.

DOUGH turns BOUGH into BOW (and arrow)
ALTHOUGH turns ROUGH into ROW (boat)

BROUGHAM turns TOUGH into TWO
THROUGH turns TROUGH into TRUE

SLOUGH* turns ROUGH into ROW
DROUGHT turns COUGH into COW

THOUGHT turns ROUGH into RAW
FOUGHT turns DOUGH into DOOR

TROUGH turns DOUGH into DOFF
COUGH turns TOUGH into TOFF

DOUGH turns TOUGH into TOE
ALTHOUGH turns SOUGH into SEW

DOUGH turns SLOUGH* into SLOW
FURLOUGH turns TOUGH into TOE

CHOUGH turns BOUGH into BUFF
ENOUGH turns COUGH into CUFF

THROUGH turns BOUGHT into BOOT
BROUGHAM turns SOUGHT into SUIT

THOUGH turns BOUGHT into BOAT
DOUGH turns OUGHT into OAT