Super-Quiz No. 2

This is our second spelling quiz. Like its predecessor, it is so difficult that even a university professor of English couldn’t possibly get a perfect score on it. For the benefit of new readers, we are repeating the instructions for working on it.

We have selected 25 English words, names, or terms. For each one, we have given you the pronunciation (respelling the word or name rather grotesquely for that purpose) and the meaning. All you need to do is to write down the correct spelling. Score yourself as follows: 15 or more correct, very good; 20 or more correct, superior; 25 correct, utterly impossible! You will find the correct answers on page 125 of this issue.

To pass the test, you must, naturally, know the letters with which the words are spelled, but that is not enough. There are four other factors for you to weigh in each case:

1. This quiz does not arbitrarily limit itself to ordinary words. Included are some of the proper names that surround us on all sides. Proper names are generally capitalized. Therefore, consider whether or not the word facing you is supposed to be capitalized. If you slip up, in either direction, score yourself wrong.

2. Most spelling quizzes restrict themselves to words written in solid form (“touchstone,” for instance). They carefully avoid hyphenated words such as “hubble-bubble” and compound terms such as “clock watcher.” There are no such exclusions here. For each term, you must decide whether it should be written solidly, or with a hyphen, or in the form of separate words. Any error of judgment on your part, and you are wrong!

3. Some words must be adorned with apostrophes, accent marks, circumflexes, umlauts, cedillas, and other diacritical marks, to be written correctly. You will encounter such words in this quiz. You cannot take credit for spelling a word correctly unless you get any needed adornments just right. For example, if a word needs an acute accent (´) and you provide it with a grave accent (¨), that counts as a mistake. Nothing short of absolute correctness will do.

4. Some words may be spelled in more than one way. In the case of such words, we have consulted three leading American dictionary authorities of the 1960’s:

WORD WAYS

1. MIRRE
2. RRAY-ZZ
3. BRAH-SS
4. COCK-SE
5. OH-BHO
6. DEEH-VA
7. UH-KAY
8. NOOH-SH
9. HOOE-HO
10. ATTY
11. LESS-EIG
12. SPIGHT
13. AKKK-U
14. SOHN-FI
15. ROU-MA
16. BURDIE
17. KEH-DH
18. BHOAR
19. SEKK-RH
20. NAHLL
21. KOE-ZEE
22. FEE-BEE
23. KEE
24. TSHLW
25. KOE-HO
Super-Quiz No. 2

it is so difficult that

it is so difficult that
ever score a perfect score on it.

Instructions for working

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rules. For each one, we

rules. For each one, we

do is to write down

do is to write down

more correct, very good;

more correct, very good;

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visible! You will find the

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words with which the words

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two factors for you to

write up, in either direction,

write up, in either direction,
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yphenated words such

clock watcher." There

clock watcher." There

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will decide whether it

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written in solid form

same factors for you to

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The quiz follows. Egad!

The quiz follows. Egad!

Term

Term

Meaning

Meaning

1. MIRRE

1. MIRRE

A bitter gum resin used for incense and perfumes.

A bitter gum resin used for incense and perfumes.

2. RRAY-ZE-OHN-DEH-TR

2. RRAY-ZE-OHN-DEH-TR

Reston or justification for being.

Reston or justification for being.

3. BBAAH-SSAH-KNOW-VVAA

3. BBAAH-SSAH-KNOW-VVAA

A popular dance of Brazilian origin.

A popular dance of Brazilian origin.

4. COCK-SENN

4. COCK-SENN

The steersman of a racing shell.

The steersman of a racing shell.

5. OH-BHOI

5. OH-BHOI

An oloe.

An oloe.

6. DEEH-VAHLL-KY-REHH

6. DEEH-VAHLL-KY-REHH

A music drama by Richard Wagner.

A music drama by Richard Wagner.

7. UH-KAY-ZHUN-ULL

7. UH-KAY-ZHUN-ULL

Appearing irregularly, or now and then.

Appearing irregularly, or now and then.

8. NOOH-SHEH-TELLH

8. NOOH-SHEH-TELLH

A soft, white, French cheese.

A soft, white, French cheese.

9. HOE-HOH-CUSS

9. HOE-HOH-CUSS

A borough in northeastern New Jersey.

A borough in northeastern New Jersey.

10. AYTH

10. AYTH

Being one of 8 equal parts.

Being one of 8 equal parts.

11. LESS-EIGH-PHARE

11. LESS-EIGH-PHARE

Governmental noninterference in economic affairs.

Governmental noninterference in economic affairs.

12. SPIIGHT-N-DIE-VVULL

12. SPIIGHT-N-DIE-VVULL

A channel in New York City connecting the Hudson

A channel in New York City connecting the Hudson

and Harlem rivers.

and Harlem rivers.

13. AKKK-UH-MMM-OWED-EYT

13. AKKK-UH-MMM-OWED-EYT

To oblige, to do a favor for.

To oblige, to do a favor for.

14. SOHN-FRWAH

14. SOHN-FRWAH

Calmness amid trying circumstances.

Calmness amid trying circumstances.

15. ROU-MAY-NYAH

15. ROU-MAY-NYAH

A country in southeastern Europe.

A country in southeastern Europe.

16. BURRDH-ZIGH

16. BURRDH-ZIGH

Seen from above: panoramic.

Seen from above: panoramic.

17. KEH-DHOAR SSEEH

17. KEH-DHOAR SSEEH

The French Foreign Office.

The French Foreign Office.

18. BHOARSHIT

18. BHOARSHIT

A Russian beet soup.

A Russian beet soup.

19. SEKK-REH-LIDGE-USS

19. SEKK-REH-LIDGE-USS

Guilty of violating something holy.

Guilty of violating something holy.

20. NAHLL-PRAHS

20. NAHLL-PRAHS

To discontinue a legal action.

To discontinue a legal action.

21. KOE-ZEE-FPAHNT TOO-TEH

21. KOE-ZEE-FPAHNT TOO-TEH

A comic opera by Mozart.

A comic opera by Mozart.

22. FEE-BEE

22. FEE-BEE

A girl's given name.

A girl's given name.

23. KEE

23. KEE

A wharf or landing place.

A wharf or landing place.

24. TSHI-WAH-OWA

24. TSHI-WAH-OWA

A small, smooth-coated dog.

A small, smooth-coated dog.

25. KOE-HOONN

25. KOE-HOONN

A surname of the British gentry and nobility.

A surname of the British gentry and nobility.