

QuillSpell – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of QuillSpell – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the word "queue" get in trouble at school?

Because it had four silent letters just standing around doing nothing!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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Puns

Why did the word "queue" get in trouble at school?

💡 Because it had four silent letters just standing around doing nothing!

What's the longest word in the dictionary?

💡 "Smiles" -- because there's a mile between the first and last letter!

Why do spelling bees never get lost?

💡 They always know which way to bee!

I before E except after C?

💡 That's a weird rule -- and I just proved it wrong!

Why did the comma break up with the apostrophe?

💡 It was tired of all the possessiveness!

What do you call a word that means its own opposite?

💡 A contronym -- it's literally fighting with itself!

Why was the vowel always invited to parties?

💡 Because you can't have fun without U!

Why did the silent K feel left out?

💡 It was there at the start of "knight" but nobody even noticed!

What do you call a sleeping word?

💡 A syno-nap!

Why do homophones make terrible friends?

💡 Because they sound the same but always mean different things!

The past, the present, and the future walked into a spelling bee. It was really tense!

Why did the prefix "un-" feel so negative?

💡 Because it could never agree with anything!

What happened when the dictionary fell off the shelf?

💡 The words had a fallout!

Why is the letter T like an island?

💡 Because it's in the middle of "water"!

What did one suffix say to the other?

 "You complete me -- but only when we're attached!"

Why did the student bring a thesaurus to dinner?

 To find a synonym for "delicious"!

What's a ghost's favorite spelling word?

 "Boo-tiful"!

Why couldn't the consonant cluster go on vacation?

 Because it couldn't get a break!

What did the etymology teacher say on the first day?

 "Let's get to the root of things!"

Why did "ph" refuse to make its own sound?

 Because "f" was already doing the job!

Riddles

I'm a word that becomes shorter when you add two letters to it. What am I?

💡 "Short" -- add "er" and it's "shorter"!

I have all 26 letters but no words. What am I?

💡 A keyboard!

I'm spelled with three letters. I begin with "gas." What word am I?

💡 Gasoline? No -- just "gas"! (The riddle said three letters.)

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

💡 "Short" -- because adding "er" literally makes it "shorter"!

I start with E, end with E, and contain only one letter. What am I?

💡 An envelope!

What word has three consecutive double letters?

💡 "Bookkeeper" -- look: b-o-o-k-k-e-e-p-e-r!

I am a word of letters three. Add two more and fewer there will be. What am I?

💡 "Few" -- add "er" and it's "fewer"!

What common English word has the letters "ough" and they make a different sound in each of these: though, through, cough, rough?

💡 The letter combination "ough" -- it has at least six different pronunciations in English!

Take away my first letter, I'm unchanged. Take away my last letter, I'm unchanged. Take away all my letters, I'm still the same word. What am I?

💡 "Empty"!

I'm a word that is always spelled incorrectly in the dictionary. What word?

💡 "Incorrectly" -- that's literally how you spell it!

What word contains all five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) in alphabetical order?

💡 "Facetious" -- f-a-c-e-t-i-o-u-s!

I'm a word that means the same thing when you rearrange all my letters. I have seven letters, and I'm something kids ride to school. What am I?

💡 "School bus"? No -- "anagram." Because rearranging its letters still makes... well, an anagram!

What word starts and ends with the same three letters?

💡 "Underground" -- it starts with "und" and ends with "und"!

I have a silent letter at the beginning. I'm something you use to cut. What word am I?

💡 "Knife" -- the K is silent!

What English word has three sets of double letters in a row?

💡 "Bookkeeper" -- it's the only common English word with this pattern!

I'm the shortest word that contains the letters A, B, C, D, E, and F. What am I?

💡 "Feedback"!

What four-letter word can be written forward, backward, and upside down and still be read the same?

💡 "NOON"!

I am a common word. Remove my first two letters and I become an animal. Remove my first three letters and I become a verb meaning to put something on. What am I?

💡 "Beacon" -- "acon" no... "Fox" -- no. The answer is "clamber" -- no. The answer is "sheathe" -- remove "sh" to get "eathe"... Actually: "Carpet" -- remove "ca" for "rpet"? No! The answer is "Dressing" -- nope. OK: What am I? I'm "Wheat." Remove "wh" and you get "eat"!

What nine-letter English word is still a word each time you remove a letter, all the way down to a single letter?

💡 "Startling" -- startling, starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I!

I am a homophone. One version of me is a metal, and the other version means to guide or show the way. What word am I?

💡 "Lead" -- it can mean the metal (pronounced "led") or to guide (pronounced "leed")!

Silly Stuff

A student was asked to spell "Mississippi" and said: "Which one? The river or the state? Because honestly, I can barely spell either." The teacher said, "Just pick one." The student wrote: "One."

If the letter C can sound like S or K, and the letter G can sound like J... do letters even know what their own job is?

Scientists discovered a new dinosaur and asked a kid to name it. The kid wrote "Tyrannosaurus Wrecks" and honestly, that's more phonetically accurate than the real spelling.

Legend has it that the word "colonel" saw how it was supposed to be pronounced and said, "I don't think so." It's been doing its own thing ever since.

English is three languages wearing a trench coat pretending to be one language. That's why "though," "through," "thought," and "thorough" all look related but sound completely different.

Imagine if you had to explain English spelling to an alien. "OK, so 'knife' starts with K but you don't say it. Also 'pneumonia' starts with P but you ignore that too. Yes, we did this on purpose."

A student once tried to use autocorrect on a spelling test. The computer changed "necessary" to "necessarily," then to "Nessie the Loch Ness Monster." Technology is not always the answer.

If words had feelings, "Wednesday" would need therapy. Every single day, people try to pronounce the letters that are actually in its name and give up halfway through.

The word "queue" is just the letter Q followed by four letters waiting in line... silently. They are literally standing in a queue!

Somewhere out there, the person who invented the word "lisp" put an S in it. And the person who invented "stutter" put two T's in it. Some people just want to watch the world burn.

A kid once spelled "enough" as "enuf" on a test. The teacher marked it wrong, but honestly? That kid understood phonics better than whoever came up with the original spelling.

The word "ghoti" could technically be pronounced "fish" -- GH as in "enough," O as in "women," TI as in "nation." English spelling is a wild ride.

Imagine being the letter W. Your name is "double-U" but you clearly look like a "double-V." You've been living a lie since the alphabet was invented.

In a parallel universe, English spelling makes perfect sense. "Cough" is spelled "koff," "knight" is spelled "nite," and everyone passes every spelling test on the first try. We do not live in that universe.

A student asked, "Why does 'phonics' start with 'ph' instead of 'f'?" The teacher paused for a very long time. Some say she's still thinking about it today.

Fun Facts

Did you know? The word "set" has the most definitions of any English word -- roughly 430 different meanings in the Oxford English Dictionary!

Did you know? The dot over the letters "i" and "j" has a name -- it's called a "tittle"!

Did you know? The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet -- "alpha" and "beta"!

Did you know? "Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis" is often cited as the longest word in English -- it has 45 letters and refers to a lung disease caused by very fine dust!

Did you know? The word "OK" is one of the most recognized words on Earth and it probably started as a joke -- a humorous abbreviation of "oll korrekt" (all correct) from the 1830s!

Did you know? English has borrowed words from over 350 languages! "Ketchup" likely came from a Hokkien Chinese word, "shampoo" from Hindi, and "algebra" from Arabic.

Did you know? The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet at least once. It's called a pangram!

Did you know? A palindrome reads the same forwards and backwards. "Racecar," "kayak," and "level" are all palindromes -- and so is the longest known one: about 17,000 words long!

Did you know? The English language adds roughly 1,000 new words to the dictionary every year. Recent additions have included words from technology, social media, and pop culture!

Did you know? "Typewriter" is one of the longest words you can spell using only the top row of a standard keyboard (QWERTYUIOP)!

Did you know? The word "oxymoron" is itself an oxymoron -- it comes from Greek words meaning "sharp" and "foolish" put together!

Did you know? The shortest complete sentence in English is often considered to be "I am." or even "Go." -- both have a subject and a verb!

Did you know? The word "muscle" comes from the Latin word "musculus," which means "little mouse" -- because the ancient Romans thought flexing muscles looked like a mouse running under the skin!

Did you know? There is no word in English that rhymes perfectly with "orange," "purple," "silver," or "month." Poets have been annoyed about this for centuries!

Did you know? Before the printing press, English spelling was flexible -- people often spelled words however they sounded in their local accent. Shakespeare himself spelled his own name several different ways!

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from QuillSpell. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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