



Rules for English spelling

Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1880 Excerpt: ...of nouns in / (not-af nor-If). All nouns in-/ (except those in-af and-If) form their plural by adding-s: as: (a) belief, beliefs; chief, chiefs. So with clef, fief, grief, handkerchief, mischief, relief. (J) bailiff, bailiffs; caitiff, caitiffs; and so with cliff, coif, hypogriff, mastiff, midriff, plaintiff, pontiff, sheriff, sniff, tariff, tiff, waif, whiff. (r) hoof, hoofs; so with proof, reproof, roof, scoff, woof. (d) bnff, buffs; Bo with chuff, cuff, huff, muff, puff, ruff, snuff, stuff. (e) dwarf, plu, dwarfs; so with scarf, surf, turf, wharf. Some spell the plural of "wharf" wharves, hut this absurdity should be resisted, and indeed every effort possible should be made to diminish the irregularities of spelling. FOR PRACTICE. Either Question and Antwer, Dictation, or Sdf-practice. Give the plurals of the following nouns: Grief, leaf, handkerchief, sheaf, mischief, brief Dwarf, gulf, thief, relief, elf, mastiff, sheriff Shelf, plaintiff, staff (a stich), distaff, staff of officers) Caitiff, wolf, half, proof, belief, shelf, proof Give the degrees of comparison of Busy, cold, wealthy, rich, fair, full, clear Dear, dim, cheap, chill, awful, wet, thin Prim, vain, red, green, hot, brief, glad, fat, fleet To Dog, sot, fool, fop, rub, red, wag (add-ish). Ton, lug, stop, pilot, bond, crib (add-age). Bit, sad, fat, fast, sod, cheap (add-en). Rob, gun, lot, fool, fop, shrub (add-ery). EULE LV. Plural of nouns in-fa. There ate 6 nouns ending in-fe, 3 native and 3 borrowed. The native words change-fe into-ves for the plural. The borrowed ones form the plural by adding-s. (a) The 3 native words are: Knife, hnives; life, lives; wife, wives. (b) The 3 borrowed words are: flfe, fifes; strife, strifes; safe (a closet), safes.f.. For a complete list of all ...

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