

Specific Rules

1. Observe that c and g are generally soft before e, i, and y, and hard elsewhere.

2. Observe that the combinations ch, gh, ph, th, must generally be regarded as single consonants.

3. Observe that ci, si, ti, before a vowel, generally have the sound of sh.

4. Observe that a vowel, followed by a consonant in the same syllable, is generally short.

5. Observe that n before k and g hard generally equals ng.

6. Observe that the sub-vocal th and the aspirate th are to be carefully distinguished, as in thy, thigh; with, withe.

7. Observe that e in ed final is often silent, as in famed; but in many adjectives it is pronounced, as in learned, beloved, winged, blessed, aged. The e is silent, if these words are used as verbs or participles.

8. Observe that some words of two syllables are used both as nouns and as adjectives, and that to distinguish between these we accent the nouns upon the first syllable, and the adjectives upon the last, as in in'stinct (n.), instinct' (adj.). (Exceptions: a-dept' (n.

and adj.), Web. and Wor., and ex-pert', Wor.

9. Observe that in quite a number of words of two syllables the same word is used as a noun or adjective on the one hand, and as a verb on the other. To distinguish between them, it is the custom to accent the nouns and adjectives upon the first syllable and the verbs upon the last, as con'-vert. (n.), con-vert' (v.).

10. Observe that the vowel sounds in unaccented syllables are apt to degenerate into the sound u. This is a very common tendency, especially with uncultivated speakers, and should be carefully guarded against.

In regard to unfamiliar words the author says: "Divide the word into as many syllables as there are vowels. A single consonant between two vowels should generally be placed before the second vowel, but in accented pre-penultimate syllables it is often placed after the first. Two or more consonants, occurring between two vowels, should be distributed between them. As to accent, one will seldom err if he places it upon the syllable that will render the word easiest of utterance."

THE CHILD AND THE BIRD

"Oh, where are you going, my dear little bird?

And why do you hurry away?

Not a leaf on the pretty red maple has stirred,

In the sweet golden sunshine to-day."

"I know, little maiden, the sunshine is bright,

And the leaves are asleep on the tree,

But three times the dream of a cold winter's night

Has come to my children and me.

"So, good-bye to you, darling, for off we must go,

To the land where the oranges bloom,

For we birdies would freeze in the storms and the snow,

And forget how to sing in the gloom."

"Will you ever come back to your own little nest?"

"Ah, yes, when the blossoms are here,

We'll return to the orchard we all love the best,

And then we will sing to you, dear."

—Margaret Sangster.