

an adjective and a noun, as "quick-silver"; 3rd, an adverb and a noun, as "after-thought"; 4th, a noun and an adjective, as "snow-white"; 5th, a noun and a verbal adjective, as "ox-eyed"; 6th, a noun and an active participle, as "heart-rending"; 7th, a noun and a passive participle, as "tempest-tossed"; 8th, an adverb and an adjective or participle, as "up-right," "out-spoken"; 9th, a verb and a noun, as "stop-gap"; 10th, a noun and a verb, as "ham-string."

By terminations we can express: 1st, the agent—the male or female agent, as "beggar," "barrister," "shepherd-ess"; 2nd, augmentation, as "cashier," "engineer"; 3rd, the object of an act, as "nominee," "employee"; 4th, an act, as "homage"; 5th, a state, as "freedom"; 6th, being or condition, as "vigilance," "marriage"; 7th, a quality, as "goodness"; 8th, place or office, as "granary," "bishopric"; 9th, diminution, as "satchel," "globule," "obelisk"; 10th, frequency, as "teamster," "poetaster"; 11th, descent, as "Johnson."

VII. *Mention the Affixes used to form agents, abstract nouns, diminutives, patronymics and collectives.*

The affixes used to form agents are: ar, ary, at, ive, en, ent, er, ess, et, etc, ian, ina, ine, ist, ix, or, rister. We form collective nouns by the terminations ry, ery, er; by the endings age, red, dom, y, ness, ship, th, er, ion, nde, ey, ty, tion, or, ism, abstract nouns are formed. Diminutives are formed by the following terminations: el, le, et, lock, ling, re, en, kin, cule, ule, ele, isk. Patronymics are formed by the suffixes, son, s, and ing, in English.

IX. *Write a note on the Alphabet, and account for our spelling, giving any rules you may know, with reasons and exceptions.*

If the English alphabet be tried according to the requisites of a perfect alphabet, namely: that every sound should have a sign, that no sign should

have more than one sound, and that similar sounds should have similar signs, it will indeed be found wanting. It is uncertain, one vowel, "a," has four sounds; it is inconsistent, "ch" for example, has no relation to "c" hard; it is erroneous, "th" as in "thine," is not connected with "t" at all, but with "d"; it is deficient, we have forty-two sounds in our language and only twenty-six signs; and it is redundant, for some signs represent two or more sounds, "c" hard is sounded "k," and soft, "s." The reason of this is seen from its history. Our present alphabet has taken its sounds from the Anglo-Saxon, and its signs from the Latin. It will be easily seen that such an arbitrary mode of suiting the signs to the sounds would make the alphabet very unsatisfactory.

The difficulties of English spelling may be accounted for in this way: our alphabet is deficient, the sounds of the letters are uncertain; we have taken our vocabulary from numerous sources, and we must show their derivation by their spelling; we must distinguish words alike in sound, but different in sense; the same words have come from the same roots through different channels, and these have different spelling, and it is difficult to decide which to adopt.

Rules for spelling (1) monosyllables in f, l, s, preceded by a short vowel, double the final letter; exceptions: gas, his, us, yes, if, of, clef. (2). Monosyllables ending in any letter than f, l, s, keep the final consonant single; exceptions: add, butt, buzz, ebb, egg, err, inn, odd. (3). Words in "e" mute generally retain it before additions that begin with a consonant, (a) and omit it before additions that begin with a vowel (b); exceptions: (a) awful, duly, truly, wholly, (b) "e" is retained after "v" and "a," and "c" or "g" soft, and before "ous" changes to "i." After "dg" e is generally omitted. (4). Final "y" in words