

ORTHOEPEY

Orthoepy [ortho = straight; epy = speech] is the art of correct pronunciation.

STANDARD OF PRONUNCIATION

The standard of correct pronunciation is the usage of the best speakers in different parts of the English-speaking world. Students often suppose that the author of a dictionary fixes the pronunciation of a word. This is a misunderstanding of the true purpose of a dictionary. A dictionary merely records what, after careful investigation, is found to be the pronunciation of a majority of the best educated speakers. When no one way of pronouncing a word is generally followed, the dictionary gives two pronunciations, either of which is allowable. As the pronunciation of words is constantly changing, it is advisable to consult the latest editions of the dictionaries for authority in pronunciation.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT

The importance of good pronunciation and clear articulation can hardly be overestimated. "Thy speech bewrayeth thee" is the sentence pronounced against many an ambitious person struggling for a position in life. Since pro-