

perfektion in spelling ar such az ar kompeld by their ordinary okupation to keep up a stern, unremitting effort—e.g., pres readerz and kompozitorz. In our publik skoolz, hourz and dayz ar painfully spent in intoning or singing the spelling ov a few wordz. Yet, in spite ov all this prolonged toil, only a ludikrously small minority ov the skolarz reach the Sixth Standard. Even the teacherz, akording to an Amerikan authority, would fail in this subjekt to the extent ov 25 per sent, while at home we find it to be the fatal drawback to a vast majorit ov Sivil Servis kandidates. Surely ther iz no room for douting that our method ov teaching to read iz an awful kase ov cruelty to children. They ar assured tnat it iz their duty and privilej to acquire in their childhood an akomplishment which haz actually proovd beyond the reach ov their pastorz and masterz. And this akomplishment iz without any redeeming featurez. Its terribel strain iz unrelieved by any sujestion ov variety or utility. On the kontrary, any intelligent child who rizez above a dul mekanikal routine must be konstantly irritated by the palpabel absurditiz set before him. It iz true that sertain diffikultiz kan never be dissociated from the arts ov reading and writing. They must alwayz inklude an arbitrary, and, therefore, an uninteresting, element, sins no reason kan be given why letterz should reprezent sertain soundz, and no helthy mind kan take an interest in symbolz for their own sake. But we need not hezitate to admit the reality ov this diffikulty, seeing that it iz capabel ov being immensely redused, and that, after all, no harm kud kum from postponing this artificial study to a later staje in the life ov the child, just az it haz been one ov the later stajez in the life ov the rase. A child may profitably okupy several yearz in the unsystematik study ov the objekts and prosesses ov “the household, the streets and the fieldz,” az Herbert Spencer haz taught us, and then wil be all the better fitted to deal with the study ov books. But insted ov providing the eaziest possibel system, and bringing it gradually into operation az the child iz abel to bear it, we forse upon it at the tenderest aje a krushing mas ov anomaliz and