

The Chaos by Trenité aka Charivarius

1 Dearest creature in creation
Studying English pronunciation,
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, **corps**, horse and worse

2 I will keep you, Susy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye your dress you'll **tear**,
So shall I! Oh, hear my prayer,

3 Pray, console your loving poet,
Make my coat look new, dear, **sew** it!
Just compare heart, beard and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,

4 **Sword** and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written).
Made has not the sound of bade,
Say said, pay-paid, laid, but plaid.

5 Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as **vague** and ague,
But be careful how you speak,
Say break, steak, but bleak and streak.

6 Previous, precious, fuchsia, via,
Pipe, snipe, **recipe** and choir,
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, shoe, poem, toe.

7 Hear me say, devoid of trickery:
Daughter, laughter and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, **aisles**.
Exiles, similes, reviles.

8 Wholly, **holly**, signal, signing.
Thames, examining, combining
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,
Solar, mica, war, and far.

9 From "desire": desirable--**admirable** from "admire."
Lumber, plumber, bier, but brier.
Chatham, brougham, renown, but known.
Knowledge, done, but gone and tone,

10 One, **anemone**. Balmoral.
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel,
Gertrude, German, wind, and mind.
Scene, Melpomene, mankind,

11 Tortoise, turquoise, chamois-leather,
Reading, reading, **heathen**, heather.
This phonetic labyrinth
Gives moss, gross, brook, brooch, ninth, plinth.

12 Billet does not end like ballet;
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet;
Blood and **flood** are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.

13 Banquet is not nearly parquet,
Which is said to rhyme with "darky."
Viscous, Viscount, load, and broad.
Toward, to forward, to reward.

14 And your pronunciation's O.K.,
When you say correctly: croquet.
Rounded, **wounded**, grieve, and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive, and live,

15 Liberty, library, heave, and heaven,
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven,
We say hallowed, but allowed,
People, leopard, towed, but **vowed**.

16 Mark the difference, moreover,
Between mover, plover, Dover,
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
Chalice, but police, and **lice**.

17 Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, **disciple**, label,
Petal, penal, and canal,
Wait, surmise, plait, promise, pal.

18 Suit, **suite**, ruin, circuit, conduit,
Rhyme with "shirk it" and "beyond it."
But it is not hard to tell,
Why it's pall, mall, but Pall Mall.

19 Muscle, muscular, gaol, iron,
Timber, climber, bullion, lion,
Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, and chair,

Senator, spectator, mayor,

20 Ivy, privy, famous, clamour
And enamour rime with hammer.
Pussy, hussy, and possess,
Desert, but **dessert**, address.

21 Golf, wolf, countenance, lieutenants.
Hoist, in lieu of flags, left pennants.
River, rival, **tomb**, bomb, comb,
Doll and roll and some and home.

22 **Stranger** does not rime with anger.
Neither does devour with clangour.
Soul, but foul and gaunt but aunt.
Font, front, won't, want, grand, and grant.

23 Shoes, goes, does. Now first say: **finger**.
And then: singer, ginger, linger,
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, and gauge,
Marriage, foliage, mirage, age.

24 Query does not rime with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury.
Dost, lost, post; and doth, cloth, loth;
Job, **Job**; blossom, bosom, oath.

25 Though the difference seems little,
We say actual, but victual.
Seat, sweat; **chaste**, caste.; Leigh, eight, height;
Put, nut; granite, and unite.

26 Reefer does not rime with deafer,
Feoffer does, and zephyr, heifer.
Dull, bull, Geoffrey, George, ate, late,
Hint, **pint**, Senate, but sedate.

27 Scenic, Arabic, **Pacific**,
Science, conscience, scientific,
Tour, but our and succour, four,
Gas, alas, and Arkansas.

28 Sea, idea, **guinea**, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria,
Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean,
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

29 Compare alien with Italian,
Dandelion with battalion.
Sally with **ally**, yea, ye,
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, key, quay.

30 Say aver, but ever, fever.
Neither, leisure, skein, receiver.
Never guess--it is not safe:
We say calves, **valves**, half, but Ralph.

31 Heron, granary, **canary**,
Crevice and device, and eyrie,
Face but preface, but efface,
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.

32 Large, but **target**, gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust, and scour, but scouring,
Ear but earn, and wear and bear
Do not rhyme with here, but ere.

33 Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew, Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, **clerk**, and jerk,
Asp, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

34 Pronunciation--think of **psyche**--!
Is a paling, stout and spikey,
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing "groats" and saying "grits"?

35 It's a dark abyss or tunnel,
Strewn with stones, like rowlock, gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,
Housewife, verdict, and **indict**!

36 Don't you think so, reader, rather,
Saying lather, bather, father?
Finally: which rimes with "enough"
Though, through, **plough**, cough, hough, or tough?

37 **Hiccough** has the sound of "cup."
My advice is--give it up!
