

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough, thorough, laugh, and through.

And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword
Well done! And now if you wish, perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps,

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead—
For goodness sakes don't call it deed.

Watch out for meat and great and threat,
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.
A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.

And here is not a match for there,
And dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose—
Just look them up—and goose and choose,

And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five.

<https://reallifeglobal.com/fun-english-advanced-pronunciation-exercise-test-your-skills/>

slough /slaʊ/ (of despond) *swamp; situation of little progress of activity*
slough /slʌf/ (something off) *shed or remove (a layer of dead skin), and metaphorically get rid of; slough away/down collapse or slide into a hole or depression*
also as mass noun: the dropping off of dead tissue from living flesh

The Pronunciation Poem

Here is some pronunciation.

Ration never rhymes with nation,
Say prefer, but preferable,
Comfortable and vegetable,
B must not be heard in doubt,
Debt and dumb both leave it out.
In the words psychology,
Psychic and psychiatry,
You must never sound the p.
Psychiatrist you call the man
Who cures the complex, if he can.
In architect, chi is k.
In arch it is the other way.

Please remember to say iron
So that it'll rhyme with lion.
Advertisers advertise,
Advertisements will put you wise.
Time when work is done is leisure,
Fill it up with useful pleasure.
Accidental, accident,
Sound the g in ignorant.
Relative, but relation,
Then say creature, but creation.
Say the a in gas quite short
Bought remember rhymes with thwart,
Drought must always rhyme with bout,
In daughter leave the "gh" out.

Wear a boot upon your foot.
Root can never rhyme with soot.
In muscle, sc is s,
In muscular, it's sk, yes!
Choir must always rhyme with wire,
That again will rhyme with liar.
Then remember it's address
With an accent like possess.
G in sign must silent be,
In signature, pronounce the g.

Please remember, say towards
Just as if it rhymed with boards.
Weight's like wait, but not like height.
Which should always rhyme with might.
Sew is just the same as so,
Tie a ribbon in a bow.
When you meet the queen you bow,
Which again must rhyme with how.
In perfect English make a start.
Learn this little rhyme by heart.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-poetry>