

Mensefu Scots Spellin

for ti lairn an be lairnit

Report & Recommends o the Scots Spellin Comatee

(Nov 1996 - August 1998)

The Scots Spellin Comatee

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Future o the Spellin Comatee

The Comatee at its hinmaist meetin deciddit ti byde in bein ti pit oot this
Report, an mibbie meet in future ti tak tent o reactions. Informal discussion haes taen
place anent conductin sindrie academic studies o maiters beirin on the substance o
whit's been sayed herein.

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1. Leet o abbreviations uised

CESD	The Concise English-Scots Dictionary (SNDA, Chambers 1993)
CSD	The Concise Scots Dictionary (SNDA, AUP 1985)
RWS	Recommendations for Writers in Scots (SLS, 1985)
SLRC	Scots Language Resource Centre
SLS	Scots Language Society
SND	Scottish National Dictionary (SNDA, 1929-1976)
SNDA	Scottish National Dictionary Association
SSD	The Scots School Dictionary (SNDA, Chambers 1996)

2. Introduction

This Report is intendit ti set oot the interim conclusions o a smaa comatee set up ti conseider cuid Scots spellin no be redd up a bittie. We've furthset it in *samizdat* form an distributit a when copies amang voluntary organisations concerned wi Scots, ti Scottish universities an educational bodies, an ti screivers an furthsetters o Scots. It includes short comments at the end merkin significant unsortit disputes wi its conclusions on the pairt o members o the comatee itsel.

It is intendit as a contribution ti onie conscious, collective or poleitical act o national language plannin at micht tak place, wi ambeition leimitit ti whit seems possible at the date o its production.

The Report's authors ar the members o the Scots Spellin Comatee, an ad hoc group set up in November 1996 follaein a period o consultation amang Scots language organisations an individual screivers o Scots, an a meetin haudden in Perth ti discuss the affcome o that aerie consultation.

The Comatee haes met throu 1996-98, takkin inpit frae aabodie involved, an frae the aerie pairt o 1998 the main pynts an papers o the hail collogue is gettin positit on the SLRC wabsteid at: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/slrc/index.htm>

We ettle ti continue in bein, recordin reactions til this paper, an micht in the future publish ither updates in the licht o whit fowk says, an screivers dis.

The pynt o origin o this Report wis ti hae a mair extendit collogue anent the problems an thair possible solutions nor whit haed gane afore, an ti tak the results forrit inti the political an educational warlds wi some collective sanction frae Scots linguists an screivers.

Whit haed gane afore, we believe, haed been maist important an influential, but whiles nichtit fowk athoot map or compass in some gey unchancie terrain.

Makars an dictionar makars

The leiterary lights o the Scots Renaissance at teuk on ti mak recommends for modren Scots spellin at the Makars' Club in 1947 gied us a page an a hauf efter a short session. Thon page an a hauf cam on the scene when the *Scottish National Dictionary* wisna hauf wey completit, an it haed its influence on monie screivers o Scots lang afore iver the *Dictionary* wis published in 1976: an expensive multi-volume wark. Monie's a screiver haedna a guid dictionar forbye mibbie an auld *Jamieson's* or *Chambers* till the *Concise* cam oot in 1985.

David Murison's great achievement wis ti gie scholarly foonds ti the Scots leid as it haes been written an reportit doun the years. It haes been follaed throu bi the SNDA in the production o ither, chaeper dictionars ower the decade past, mainly based on *SND*, but in the case o the English->Scots dictionars, biggin on William Graham's *Scots Word Book* an his donatit manuscript collections an aa.

But bi the time *SND* an its successors cam oot, the consensus o some makars an screivers haed moved on, an muckle o thair practice isna sae weel-reflectit in the dictionars. Whan the *Concise* cam oot, sae did the Scots Language Society (SLS) wi a

raither different emphasis, in its *Recommendations for Writers in Scots* - anither but langer *Style Sheet* kynd o blad mainly frae thae makars haudin in wi whit existit as an SLS consensus. The genesis o this is descryved bi David Purves as follaes, in information ludged wi the Comatee:

When I started writing in Scots in the early 1970s, I was impressed by the 1947 *Scots Style Sheet*, which largely embodied the views of A.D. Mackie and Douglas Young. At this time, this document seemed to me a refreshing attempt to treat Scots as a language. The parochial apostrophes were dismissed and *aa, caa, baa* were manifestly better than *a', ca', ba* (although *caaan* was a bit of a problem). However, when I discussed this document with Jack Aitken, he dismissed it with considerable scorn, describing it as woefully inadequate for a whole language, and so jejune as to be practically useless.

I didn't altogether agree with this judgement, since the writers who had formulated these proposals were prestigious and writing at the coal face, as it were. So, with the support of the Scots Language Society, I began the process of trying to improve the Style Sheet by filling some of the obvious gaps. I had a series of meetings with Jack Aitken and Hans Speitel, and a consultation with David Murison, to advise me on a draft to be submitted to contemporary Makkars, with a view to replacing the Style Sheet ...

..... (frae anither communication:)

... These guidelines were agreed at a meeting of contemporary Scots Makkars in the School of Scottish Studies in 1985. The draft recommendations discussed on this occasion were formulated following consultation with a number of authorities who are now sadly no longer with us, such as Professor A.J. Aitken, David Murison, Alexander Scott, Alastair Mackie, J.K. Annand and William Graham. These guidelines are essentially a revised version of *The Scots Style Sheet* of 1947, amended by writers, on the basis of suggestions made by Jack Aitken. This is a consensus document agreed by some distinguished writers in Scots ...

David Purves teuk the ideas set oot in RWS a kennin furder, and haes kyndlie alloued SLRC to post on its wabsteid the typescript o his unpublished manuscript, *A Scots Orthography and Reader*, whaur the ideas he developed ar pitten in ful, an thair consequences wrocht inti re-edits o monie tradeitional texts.

Thare haes aye been makars an screivers at haesna faan in wi the policies o SLS, an SLS itsel wisna foondit ti the aerie Seeventies. Bi the time it wis foondit, an expressin the collective wyceheid o the post-war Scots screivers o the *Lallans* muovement, thare wis a somewhit contrar leiterary trend amang screivers generally no sae closslie associatit wi SLS an sceptical o the *Lallans* project, ti uise Scots in mair naituralistic, less consciously leiterary weys, aften exploitin urban dialects an explorin workin-class experience. Frae onie braid conspectus on leiterature an language, this haes enriched the reenge o available registers for Scots an likely saved a dael o idiom that wis derved in workin-class speech paitrens. Frae the pynt o view o staundardisin spellin, it haes creatit a problem cause monie practitioners juist inventit, an continues ti juist invent, whitiver thay think'll dae ti render phonetic quiddities. This is whiles a service ti linguistic studies an whiles a bourach at juist serrs ti satirise wi unintendit bathos the fowk the screiver ettles ti represent.

A benefit o staundardisation no muckle thocht on bi some screivers at affects ti scorn it is the chance o evytin sic affcomes bi allouin spellins ti recede frae foreground ti background. Anither is that divergences frae the staundard whan ettelt can mair clearly be seen for whit the ettle wis, no juist flie by the reader's confuised ee.

Doun ti gey recent time, the SNDA haedna socht ti be prescriptive in onie o the shorter beuks, but thair policy chynged ti some degree wi the publication in aerie 1996 o *The Scots School Dictionary*, haudin baith Scots-English an English-Scots sections, wi a CD ROM version follaein in April 1998. Thair plans for a Scots Spellin Checker program cried *Canniespell* haes nou resultit in the eissue o a program at rins on IBM personal computers, and taks as its stertin pynt the word-leet gien in *SSD*, wi a puckle chynges the airt o recognisin a general preference amang monie screivers for uisin *-ou-* instead o *-oo-* in monie words.

Ae foremaist ettle o the Spellin Comatee is ti heid aff onie trend ti perpetuate twa (or mair) tradeitions in the spellin o Scots. Oor unanimous view is at SNDA maun hae leal support frae aabodie wi a love for Scots, an at depairtures frae practices implicitly or explicitly recommendit bi SNDA - we hae some ti suggest - shuid be smaa, an airtit at mibbie greater conseistency, mibbie better aesthetics, or ither guid raeson. The consultation at stertit this process aff, tharefor, concentratit on *The Scots School Dictionary* as representin the state o the art: we wantit ti see first whit greement an codification micht emerge frae a wide collogue anent its content.

SNDA naiturallie sees it as its function ti record the leid the wey it's kythed ower a lang period; an sae maun leet a when mair variants nor this Comatee thinks necessar, sae gin onie o the chynges recommendit bi us pruves influential, we wadna expect the fact ti be recordit afore it haes been reflectit in screivers' practice ower a langer rin: mibbie ten, twintie year or mair. Nor dis SNDA think at onie kind o rule-bund approach ti spellin, sic as that set oot herein, can answer aa the problems like ti kythe: sae at in the end, thare is naething ti dae aboot spellin ither nor leet aa the words in uiss. Fornent this is oor ain perception at fowk micht weish ti finnd a wey ti leimit an chuse amang the large nummer o variant weys o daein.

Canniespell allous ye ti eik on ti the SNDA's basic word leet onie terms ye prefer yersel, an we unnerstaund at future updates o the product micht lat ye edit the oreiginal leet ti align first-offert chyces ti yer ain wey o daein.

It is statit here for the evytance o dout at SNDA disna accept the recommends gien in this Report.

A future for prose in Scots

It is a ferlie at poets wis able ti band thegither at aa wi the aim o staandardisin Scots spellin, conseiderin at poetry - maist especially in the formally conservative Scots tradeition - is sic a phonetically-airtit medium, drawin its virr frae the soond o leivin speech. Monie a possible rhyme in Scots relies on a dialect variant - *buits* can be *weet* in the Nor-Aest but thay'r juist *wat* ithergates.

We ar some o us prosier fowk on the Spellin Comatee, an maist o us haes a concern at a braider exercese o sic functional screivin as this is necessar ti the survival o the leid throu extendin the registers available.

It haes been weel seen frae the stert o the process at this concern winna be shared the same wey amang creative screivers. Indeed, monie screivers wi weys o daein weel-calculatit ti serr thair ain needs didna want ti be fashed wi comment whan

we speired at thaim - an we hae been speirin at aa thae whase addresses we cuid finnd. Ithers haes commentit at a wrang-heidit approach juist dis mair herm nor guid.

Ae thing aften repeatit wis at the life at bydes in the leid depends on laein fowk scowth ti represent as muckle o its by-leid parteicularity as thay micht weish. Oor answer ti this is at the'r naething ti stap oniebodie pittin down in whitna wey thay think is mensefu, feckfu or itherweys, ocht thay want. Gin it is guid o its kynd, fowk'll can see that. We hae seen it as oor foremaist ettle ti gie guidance on whit we think'll serr for a non-regional Scots, nae inventit language this but ane weel-documentit throu the centuries o Scots leiterature.

Hou faur it's possible ti succeed, ye'll can juidge bi this Report, intendit ti exempliffee the affcome. It haes been informed bi fowk frae Shetland ti the Borders, fameiliar wi Buchan, Glesca an Gallowa, an haes taen a leuk at laest ower the sea ti Ulster throu the windae opent sae lucently bi Philip Robinson on our freins' leid in thon airt. It haes been intendit ti uise an recommend variants at'll function weel in aa airts, or as monie airts as possible, wi nae mair streitchin an raxin nor whit's ordnar for Tynesiders or Liverpudlians ti express thair written sels in staundard English: a gey sicht less, indaed.

It sterts an feinishes bi bein a gey sicht mair braid nor whit maist fowk wad think aathegither naitural ti Scots eenou, but in bein educatit Scots, we didna think it wis the better pairt o laer ti lib it. Feow eneuch fowk spaeks Staundard English in its heicher, academic registers. Some dis. Gin mair Scots ar educatit, mibbie thay'll can spaek educatit Scots tae.

An advance creiticism we encoontered, anent the purpose an plan o this tyauve, wis at Scots haedna the words as dael wi the subject o sic a debate. Mair, that the end pynt o an ettle ti extend registers wad be ti waeken Scots bi pittin it inti the poseition o borraer frae its predator leid English ti sic a degree at the leid wad brak itsel an feinish in some kynd o puirs' hoose for seik languages. We think that's ti be feart o the daith we'll niver dee: it's bein silent whan ye micht spaek at kills a leid, wi daith o confidence amang its spaekers.

Scots in Schuils

We tak the concern - at we micht succeed in daein herm - ti hert. But ae thing abuin aa ithers maks us haud forrit, an that is the fact an future o Scots in schuils. Dilution o the Scots language amang bairns thraetens onie chance o a future unless thae fowk nou giein attention ti whit'll be lairned the young scholars is gien richt airtin at thay can unnerstaund an pass on. Gin we lae the verra words o the leid in a guddle, thare'll be smaa chance o biggin wi thaim on the brigheid nou advancin in the education system.

In 1998, that system disna yet accept in onie o its three sectors that Scots *spellin* is teachable or worth teachin. Athoot *some* staundard operatin ti *some* degree, it wad be a gey teuch pynt ti argie. Sae sclender an waek the brigheid o concern wi Scots is, some seems ti think at onie concern wi spellin is aathegither like ti connach it.

The natur o the brigheid is at thare is nou recognition in the *5-14 National Guidelines* at the language at bairns brings ti schuil shuid be respectit. But the corollary, at staundards o attainment shuid be identifee'd, socht, an assessed haes been ower muckle a swallae thus faur. Sae we hae a situation whaur Scots is hauf-wey

recognised, wi the puir excuse offert that the dialects ar ower diverse for ocht but whitiver phonetic approximations comes up the humph ti serr instead o lairnin oniething systematically.

Experience wi the jynt SLRC-SLS *Scots in Schuils* an SLS leiterarie competitions o 1998 shaws the folly o sic douts an practices: whaur a puckle o adult entries ti that pairt o the competeition wis marred bi personal phonetics sae inscrutable as ti be nearhaun unreadable, the feck o entries frae schuils shawed clear evidence o salutary uiss o *The Scots School Dictionary*. Scholars an thair teachers haes a weish ti dae things richt, it seems, whan aince thay stert.

An the weish ti excuse a guddle exposes bad faith. Ti uise onie kynd o “phonetic approximation” successfully, wi bairns at haesna yet lairned thair ABC, we ar raellie spaekin aboot Scots bein rendert in a sub-English phonetic system that bi definition thae bairns shuidna hae lairned yet. In ither words, the language the bairns brings ti the schuil isna bein respectit ava, but anither language’s systems is bein imposed first, an it’s efterhaun at “approximation” is occurrin.

In oor recommends, we leuk forrit ti a time whan Scots is gien the place it shuid hae in Scots education and leiterature, whaur aa bairns is lairned the Scots system along wi the English ane, wi the shared vocabular an closslie-relatit spellin systems brocht inti the relation an contrast thay deserr.

Gin this Report haes a puckle new features intil’t, it’s thir: at we hae gien thocht ti a Scots spellin system at pits Scots in a rael relationship wi English, allouin the primacy o English spellin cause o the shared words Scots aye maun uise, pittin the disteinctive Scots spellins in a differentiatit form athoot generatin monie forms that’ll leuk aathegither orra tae the English-thirlt ee, an descryvin in this wey a teachable compromise.

The extent o staandardisation recommendit

Thare exists sic a thing as ill-spelt Scots, faur awa frae *onie* acceptit staandard. Whiles it’s mibbie true, at guid leiterature can brak throu sic menseless spellin, but we hae ti mynd at non-conformance ti existin norms is a habble on readin wi fluency an pleasure, whan the ee's interruptit wi ower monie sair bits.

Scots, a thraetened leid, needs ti byde closs ti its sources o authenticity in the spaek o the fowk, an thair wey o spaekin dis differ a kennin frae here ti thonder, the’r nae denyin. This disna mak a guid system impossible, but suggests at the smeddum o the system shuid be ti prefer the meinimal, maist-encompassin form ti unnecessar parteicularisin an owerspellin. Thus we hae concludit that *uise* an *uiss* ar superior ti *yaise* an *yuiss*, that negative verbs shuid end wi *-na* raither nor *-nae*, an that *frae* is better nor *fae*. Oor principle haes been ti wale the spellin at seems ti allou the braider interpretation, follaein oor remit ti produce a diaphonemic system.

But the’r ither, fykier problems. Screivers frae the Nor-Aest winna aesie be persuadit ti drap the *f* in the *whit* the lave o us ken, tho gin “wh”s ar aspiratit the tradeitional Scots wey, the differ o soond isna sae muckle. An dae whit oniebody will, thay winna lang scribble doun a page athoot drappin braid hints o thair brocht-upness for as lang as Scots bydes a leid ruitit in popular spaek.

We saw it as a darg ower muckle for us, ti attempt a description o hou sic by-leid variants as canna richtlie be cowpit oot o uiss aathegither nicht be systematised. We content oorsel ablo wi a short recommend on this topic, but pynt oot here that aa

the dictionars o SNDA gies guidance on local forms, an thare is sic a thing as readin the best local exemplars o dialect screivin an copyin thair better practice.

Whit staundardisation we ar proposin, tharefor, is leimitit ti the rigbane o the leid: its maist frequent an kenspeckle words, thegither wi a representation system intendit ti be yokit an uised wi a mensefu regard ti dialectal authenticity athin a text, an ti precedent recordit in the reference beuks.

A test o the success or itherweys o the gate we've taen micht be this: hou aesie is it juist ti breenge throu this text alood, giein yer ain local accent til it?

Spellin an Style

The'r monie ither slippy stanes ti be negotiatit afore Scots can rin the gate o fluent prose athoot faain on its behouchie. Lang short cuts intae couthie's juist ane. Ither fauts we aa see an hear whiles is obscurity, pyntless evytance o words shared wi English, stretchin meanins ti brustin, an daft neologisms an unyirdins.

But uised wi a shuir haund, monie an auld word'll dae new service yet, an a leivin leid wi a leivin leiterature will mint true words gin we gie it time an tent. It isna the aim o this Comatee ti dae mair nor gie a shog ti sic braider concerns - in the *Extendit Discussion* at follaes in Section 7 ablow, whaur the smeddum o the Comatee's discussion is set oot, we dael wi spellin alane.

O coorse, it wis inevitable at the deceision ti screive this Report in Scots wad beg quaistens anent some o its ain orthography, settin by fykier quaistens o style.

Ane o the biggest quaistens relates ti a word the like o *deceision*, whaur we micht equally hae written *decision*, an lat alane the quaisten o hou ti represent the chynged soond in the Scots pronunciation, bi sayin in effect the same anent it as we hae sayed anent the braid "o" in a word like "oan", whaur we hae come doun on the meinimalist side an recommendit no representin the soond ava, furth o dialogue an creative screivin.

Ae objection wi words like this is at the soond is thocht gey auld-farrant bi some, an this comment wis made in the aerie consultation. For better or waur, we hae taen the view at it's the prevalent pronunciation yit in monie words whan Scots is bein spoken, as forment whan English is aboot ti be quotit bi a Scots speaker; that it micht be seen as a pronunciation unner thraet; an at *formal* screivin o the leid shuid uise it.

This is mentioned here, afore the main discussion, cause we want ti chap hauns wi the reader on a disclaimer, that no aa the language uised in this Report is ti be taen as a substantive recommend as ti a chuisen "staundard" form - it canna be eyvtit at some forms uised haed been better substitutit for ithers less locally specialised, but we hae lippeden on aa thae at we hae consultit ti hae latten on ti us about the feck o thaim, or iver this Report cam ti yersel.

Anither stylistic pynt at shuid be made aboot sic screivin as this, is at in order ti evyte dreichness, circumlocution an Anglicism ye need ful access ti the Scots lexis, bi time an airt. Ye need ti mak ful uiss o Scots gremmar, an whaur that pairt o the Scots lexis derived frae Anglo-Saxon disna whiles yield the sitable word, ye hae ti dae exactly whit Scots an English haes aye duin, an that's uise a Clessical ane. An at the hinner en whit ye shuid hae - cause in the memorable words o Sheena Blackhall, a sceptic anent aa this: "*Scots is a spaek!*" - shuid be direct as ordnar conversation.

For this is shuirly ane o the great raesons for fashin wi Scots prose at aa, at the ingyne o't is ti be pithy. English, tho o coorse it can be written weel gin ye'r knacky

eneuch wi't, is an awfu leid for leein, blawin an dooble-spaek: that rowthie wi metaphor an cliché the meanin o whit's bein sayed is aftentimes ill ti finnd.

Maximalism vs. meinimalism, an future chyng

Ae quaisten debatit amang the Comatee haes been shuid we recommend a system at maks a kynd o truce wi English ti dae us for nou, at fowk can aye extend in future, or shuid we ettle ti say: here a wey o daein will dae fine, an nae mair needit.

Twa-three things needs ti be sayed aboot this, cause in sindrie respects we hae taen an anti-maximalist poseition. Sae we haena follaed thae at screives "tung" for "tongue", in order ti be phonetically logical, an in order ti eik a word ti the dictionars for the sake o haein thaim bigger. We think sic phonetic logic is gey kittle, an leads the gate o orra spellins an rinawa variants at disna dae the cause o Scots onie guid.

On the ither haun, gin fowk tak up an uise a suggestion the like o "tung", than efter a bittie it winna leuk orra at aa, an efter a bittie mair it wad nae dout be eikit ti the dictionars. An thare nae dout gin Scots is uised the mair, the mair at new words will kythe naiturallie.

Houaniver, gin Scots is ti growe back an flouer it haes ti be uissfu, readable an stable ti some degree, winnin new spaekers an readers no juist in Scotland. Scots an English is mutually comprehensible leids for the maist pairt, whitiver poseition oniebodie wants ti tak anent the foustie auld quaisten o Scots bein a language or no. An in that fact Scots haes a survival strenth denied ither leids. Kennin the leiterature o Scots is pairt o bein thocht letterit in English, an that's worth gowd an siller ti us.

Mairower, nae Scots screivin on braid subjects can evyte uisin monie's a word shared wi English, an the feck o thir words will niver hae Scots forms an will aye uise the English spellin system.

Tharefor we hae ettled ti descryve a wey o merkin the mairch atween Scots an English in sic a wey at the Scots leid whan written wi rowth o English terms intil't winna leuk ower heterogeneous, an we pit it forrit as a lang-term solution ti Scots spellin, no a stap on the road some ither gate.

We hae taen the view at phonetic ower-particularity is a gate at juist leads ti mair an mair variant forms, an unnermines onie solution ye cuid think o. A "maximalist" view o whit's needit sterts wi the thocht at mair Scots words wad gie the leid a heize, an sets oot ti invent thaim. Thus ye micht think o screivin "intristit" for the Scots word cognate wi English "interested", at is a form ye'll shuirlie hear, but hauf o Scotland wants ti say "interestit" wi the stress on the saicont "e" at "intristit" wad hae sneckit aathegither, sae it turns oot that twa forms is needit - an the'r monie instances o the kynd. Nor it aesie ti be siccar whit wey ti tak certain phonetics. For ensample, ae respondent creiticised anither for wantin ti uise "thum" as an unstressed form for "thaim". (We div recommend uisin "them" as an unstressed form.) The creiticism wis at this leuked lik "clud" an sae wad be confuised bi seemin ti rhyme wi't as "thoum". But o coorse, this is wrang tae, cause the'r a pronunciation o "cluds" at gars it rhyme wi "duds".

Thare haes ti be some faith, shuirlie, at Scots soonds haesna ti depend aathegither on skeelie jynin o twintie-sax letters niver intendit for a phonetic alphabet, an at it's lairned throu fowk's twa lugs.

The Comatee haes taen a maximalist poseition wi some gey frequent words, takkin hert frae wyce words frae oor respondent Angus Watson:

... perhaps we shouldn't be too hesitant to adopt different spellings in Scots for words shared with English, even when pronounced more or less the same, as long as this is done sensibly and sensitively. After all, no-one really thinks the worse of Dutch because it has "Is dat melk?" for English "Is that milk?", or "archeologie" for "archeology". What we are talking about here is, at least in part, prestige, and it can be hard for Scots and non-Scots alike to take seriously a sequence of Scots prose (or verse) containing a number of words in what looks like totally English guise. Especially where a past precedent exists for it, it's my opinion that a differentiated Scots spelling should be adopted. It too may seem strange, even pretentious, at first but should be fairly easy to get used to.

We taen the maximalist poseition on indicatin the soond-variance in a word the like o “poseition”. Meinimalist, bi recommendin no tryin ti shaw the braid “o” in whit monie screives as “oan”: here we thocht reliance on education hou thae “o”s ar soondit wis the wycer wey o daein. Gaun wi the grain o SNDA’s recommends in *The Scots School Dictionary*, we hae taen a maximalist poseition on terminal -ie, tho no for muckle polysyllabic words.

Ane o the fykiest kinches we encoonterd wis ower whit ti dae wi words wi terminal -nd an -ct in thair ruit forms. At first we thocht ti recommend hippin the “d”s an “t”s ti gie en, depen, soun, accep, negleck etc. But we hae decidit no ti gang this gate: the’r ower monie quaistens beggin anent the compoond an derived forms, forbye the orraness o a wheen forms endin -ck. Conseider a line the like o:

The bonnie Earl o Moray cam soondin throu the toun

It seemed ti us at he wad niver hae been *sounin* throu the toun, sae at thir eleisions ar juist that - eleisions: gey common, nearhaun regular, but no invariable. On the principle at ye can aye elide whit’s thare but mislippen the lairner an the fremmit ee bi laein oot whit whiles is thare, we concludit better lae sic endins alane.

O coorse, the past tenses *accepit* an *negleckit* baith exists, but sae dis *acceptit* an *neglectit*, likely mair commonly, sae that’s the forms we think fitter for a standard non-regional prose.

3. Affcome o aerlie consultation an analysis (1996)

On the principle at thae maist like ti want ti scribe onie Scots wad be thae at war kent ti the Scottish Arts Council ti hae duin sae afore, thair leet o scribes wis uised as a basis for the leet o consultees, wi notice o the proceedins made kent ti Scots language organisations an aa.

Some weished us weel, ithers at the deil. The aerlie comments can be consultit on the SLRC Wabsteid.

Posterity canna be denied winnin the last word on Scots spellin, nae maiter hou monie fowk an institutions signs up ti this document in oor time. It's been clear frae the ootset that monie practitioners disna want ti be telt hou ti spell Scots, aither cause o dialect lealtie, or ti defend the integrity o systems thay hae made up for thairsels, or ti byde free ti render in approximate phonetics whit thay think the Scots leid sounds like.

But e'en monie o thaim, that didna want ti be fasht wi't, haed thair bit side-skelp at the spellins uised in the papers thay haed gotten, shawin at thay warnae sae skeich as aa that, juist suspeicious.

Monie ithers sent in leets o words whaur thay disagreed wi the spellins adoptit for *The Scots School Dictionary*, or expressed disagreement o principle wi clesses o words intil't. Bi faur the maist centred around a perceived excessive uiss o "oo" whaur fowk thocht the tradeitional "ou" digraph haed been better, an a like concern wi "ee" as forment "ei".

It is fair ti say at ither sic concerns war maistlie parteicularisms whaur sindrie kynds o evytable inconsistency war pyntit oot.

Follaein this aerlie consultation, a public meetin wis caaed unner the Convenership o Professor Graham Caie o the English Language Department o Glesca University, an Stuart McHardy o the Scots Language Resource Centre, an teuk place in Perth in November 1996.

4. Remit an method o the Comatee

Remit

Thon Collogue in November 1996 that established the Spellin Comatee haed in mynd ti appynt a nummer o fowk at haed been active in influencin or commentin upon spellin, ti see cuid thair whiles divergent proposals be better melled bi yokin them thegither. Durin the coorse o thair wark, the Comatee co-optit John Tait in addeition ti thair oreiginal nummer.

The remit o the Comatee is expressed in the follaein extract frae the minents o the meetin:

Present: Jack Aitken, Alasdair Allan, Graham Caie, David Carstairs, Sheila Douglas, Andrew Eagle, Richard Heinsar, Dauvit Horsbroch, John Law, Rod Lovie, Catherine Macafee, Iseabail Macleod, Ellie McDonald, Stuart McHardy, Reid Moffat, George Philp, David Purves, Lovina Roe, Kenneth Sadler, Noreen Sime, Moira Stratton, Nan Walker.

Morning Session; Convener - Professor Graham Caie

Professor Caie welcomed those attending.

John Law gave a short account of the papers which were tabled: a summary of responses to consultation, a list of consultees, and two word-lists showing which words in a 10000-word vocabulary seemed to be contentious, and which did not seem to be. He noted that non-contentious spellings exceeded contentious by three to one, so that the task facing any committee was by no means an impossibly difficult one... As everybody knew, the bulk of contentious words was made up of those tending to use *ee/ei* or *oo/ou* digraphs, much of the rest involving different default choices for the *schwa*. He cautioned that work on the database was not complete, and that the present lists contained many mistakes...

Professor Caie introduced discussion by observing that any spelling reform would be an emotional business, but that in the end spelling was a matter of symbolism. Short of writing in the international phonetic alphabet, such symbol systems could not aspire to phonetic exactness. Early language was strongly dialectally typed, and our present Scots spellings were like the fossil remains from different earlier periods and dialect areas. Given care, there was no doubt spelling could be reformed to greater consistency by some kind of "political" process - and he was certain that this should be done. Among many things that might be borne in mind, however, was that if speed of reading recognition was an objective, as no doubt it was, a need for different spellings for some homophones would tend to trip up a scheme which relied only on phonemic principles.

David Purves noted that with our present dictionaries, which were works of reference for a diverse literature, four or five spellings might seem to be sanctioned for certain words. Another impediment to adoption of a consistent rule-based system for Scots was the close relationship with English, with its inconsistent system. Despite much that had been said by consultees about the importance of dialects, the Scots language with its literary tradition amounted to more than a set of differently eroding dialects. It was questionable, who had any authority to propose spelling reform, though no doubt previous consensus documents in 1947 and 1985 had been influential.

Jack Aitken said that although no formal standard has ever existed for Scots, the existing pattern of variation within understood limits already constituted a kind of system. The objective of the present process should be to make whatever progress could reasonably be made, building on the 1985 SLS *Recommendations for Writers*.

Alasdair Allan agreed, but noted that another objective should be to seek greater reconciliation between maximalist and minimalist positions, and the priority must be to arrive at consensus on the selection of digraphs.

Catherine Macafee drew attention to spelling-checker development as a technological force for change, and expressed the hope that provision would be made to allow for major dialects,

especially that of the North-East, to achieve a consistency of their own within any overall system, so that a writer might be able to toggle preferences.

John Law pointed out that this might require rather different algorithms for spell-checker software, in that normal spelling-checkers simply disallowed what they could not reference, so that alternative word-sets might need to occlude options rather than include them, if a support tool for internal consistency was not to be lost.

Several speakers addressed the issue as to whether the inclusion of systematic approaches to dialects should be a priority or not, in the work of any body to be set up. No vote was taken on the point, but the consensus amongst those present was that the definition of a standard spelling system for a broad transcription of Scots should be the priority.

Iseabail Macleod, speaking on behalf of SNDA, stressed that their traditional and central continuing role was to produce dictionaries which accurately reflected usage, but that they were well aware of the prescriptive influence which resulted from their production of English-Scots dictionaries, and their planned spelling checker. SNDA was keen to play an active part in the continuation of this debate.

It was apparent from consultation, John Law said, that there would be considerable resistance to change from seriously-committed writers, if they felt that whatever was recommended would impose wrong constraint on their practice. He felt that some might have been less seriously perturbed had they not mistaken his own idiosyncrasies for the likely prescription. However that might be, he felt that it would be vital to keep the process of consultation and feedback going strongly, through all further stages towards conclusions.

George Philp introduced some of his own ideas on preferred spellings, deploring John Law's practice in dropping all terminal "y"s for "ie". He felt that "ie" should be reserved for diminutives. As to difficult digraphs, such as that in "oan", which led if widely applied in spelling to aesthetically unacceptable results, he commended the idea of using accents, as many European languages did.

The latter proposal was not endorsed by general sentiment, being thought too difficult to key, a complication, and a barrier to adoption.

Professor Caie put it to the meeting that they were concluding upon a phonemic rather than a phonetic approach. It was then agreed, upon the intervention of Catherine Macafee, rather that the approach should be diaphonemic, taking dialect variation into proper account from the start.

Ellie McDonald, who had arrived somewhat late, expressed her annoyance with some of the directions in which she supposed the bias of those present was leading them, subverting well-established spellings such as "bield" in favour of "beild", for example. She pointed out that writers and their publishers were the real legislators for spelling, and said that it was inappropriate to seek to invent the language anew with unduly sweeping changes, and would prove pointless and be ignored.

In rebuttal, David Purves stated that the spellings used by many practitioners were purely personal inventions that harmed the language by rendering it fremmit and chaotic. How could guidance be given at all, if not by such a process as this?

Sheila Douglas disagreed, giving her view that spelling was no very great barrier to enjoyment. In her work with children, she had found that the main thing was to get them using the language with spontaneity, not holding them up with rules.

The Convener, accepting this point about motivation of children, supported the view that perceived oddness of spelling - almost unavoidable given the present lack of standards - was a significant obstacle to the general reader.

Dr Douglas made the further useful point that trying for consistency within dialect representation would be a strait-jacketing experience that she did not think many writers would be eager to seek. Many Scots writers and speakers derived their Scots from no single area, but from a wide experience of the language in different airts.

Reconvening after a coffee break, the meeting heard Kenneth Sadler enlarge upon the previous debate, noting that the register range for Scots could only extend slowly, and that it was not at its present state of development likely to be widely adopted for expository prose, for example.

Stuart McHardy noted possible implications in the publishing success of Irvine Welsh in attracting a wide audience for a literature whose dialogue and narrative was based on a simple and direct contemporary Scots. He felt that simplicity in Scots spelling was desirable to make it an attractive medium for bairns.

Professor Caie thought that the work undertaken ought to be directly aimed at teachers, and reminded the meeting that universities were now planning courses in Scots which would be influential upon a new generation of teachers in Scottish schools.

David Purves cautioned against seeking simplicity for Scots by adopting a debased urban language of depravity as the model.

Sheila Douglas stressed the value of the folk tradition in this context.

Richard Heinsar said that reading Scots could and did lead to speaking Scots - what was required was a vision for Scots language development.

Andrew Eagle thought there was a need for programmatic extension to Scots vocabulary.

Stuart McHardy said that the common stock vocabulary was as much the property of Scots as of English, and that there was no point in style or spelling in trying to be as different as possible from English - this was self-defeating.

Alasdair Allan thought that the mission of a spelling committee should be arrive at a suitable broad transcription for all words with pronunciations distinctively different from English.

The Convener put it to the meeting, then, that what they were saying was that they should take a minimalist approach, interfering as little as possible with English spellings, that the approach should be diaphonemic, and that they should indeed proceed to set up a standing body.

Some reserved their position on minimalism. Positions were reserved on the desirability of propounding standards such as an *ei* spelling rule.

Catherine Macafee thought it would be of value to try to achieve whatever degree of official recognition might be achievable, for the spelling committee. Others cautioned that this might result in a seeking on the part of officialdom to interfere with the composition or workings of the committee.

It was agreed that the committee would be formally adequate as self-standing. The colloque setting it up had essentially been a public meeting announced in at least one national newspaper; there had been wide consultation, and findings would be reported back to another public meeting. Nevertheless, it was felt desirable that COSLA, SOEID and HMIs should be informed of our actings and intentions as a matter of courtesy and policy.

A general discussion about learning Scots in schools followed. It was considered that children and teachers were both of them likely to be learners, rather than fully proficient, and that mutual enjoyment of the learning process was what would commend the subject to both groups. Dr Douglas described her particular practice, in getting children to write Scots as a priority, then perhaps encouraging them not to use apostrophes, and only then introducing them to the use of dictionaries as a prop to further work.

It was recognised that formidable forces still existed in the system which were attempting to continue the secular eradication of Scots - principally antipathetic and ill-educated teachers and their previous victims now parents - and that only what was attractive and accessible could make headway. Nan Walker and George Philp stressed the value of sound and text united, as an effective resource.

Afternoon Session; Convener - Stuart McHardy

The general feeling was that sufficient consensus existed to cut short the afternoon programme and move directly to the appointment of a committee to carry on the work along the lines agreed.

The following were nominated and have agreed to serve:

Alasdair Allan
Andrew Eagle
John Law (Secretary)
J. Derrick McClure (Convener)
Iseabail Macleod
Liz Niven
George Philp
David Purves

Catherine Macafee agreed to help in any way that she could as another academic adviser to

the committee.

It was agreed that the Scots Language Resource Centre would service the committee established.

It was agreed that the remit should accord with that proposed in the paper *Interim Report* previously circulated; and that there should be a progress report back to a public session of the Scots Language Society Collogue in April 1997; and that the official bodies noted above should be kept informed; and that all respondents to the consultation exercise should be circulated with the Collogue papers and minutes.

The *Interim Report* paper alludit til in the abuin minents identifee'd the follaein topics as needin reddit:

1. The existin paitren o divergent approaches
2. Whit degree o interficherin wi English cuid / shuid be attemptit; problems wi the "ee" soond kythin in monie fameiliar words the like o *fameiliar* itsel.
3. Problems wi the "oa" soond in the likes o "oan"
4. Problems wi uisin "ei" as a defaut digraph
5. Problems wi uisin "ou" as a defaut digraph
6. Ower monie differin forms o frequent words
7. Hou faur ti uise differin orthography for unstressed forms
8. Maximalism vs. meinimalism: hou monie soond differs ti represent, in words cognate wi English?

It can be seen at maist o thir pynts war relatit ti parteicular kinches, and that the main tyauve o the Comatee, aside frae takkin definite poseitions on thaim aa in the bygaun, wis maist importantly tasked bi the foondin Collogue wi the ettle ti descryve a braid transcription o Scots that wad serr as monie dialects as possible athoot fowk bein forced ti uise ither spellin solutions, thence ti win faur mair ee-fameiliarity for Scots text.

Method

A series o meetins haes taen place, wi circulation o papers written bi sindrie members o the Comatee frae time ti time. Frae aerie on, a shortleet o frequent words derived frae an English source wis debatit wi the aim o sortin oot that leet ae wey or anither, as constitutin the inner hert o the leid's orthography.

A series o principles haes been set oot, ti serr as tests at can be uised in assessin the probable effect o parteicular proposals.

In addeition, a series o rules emergin frae analysis o the spellin chyces adoptit in *The Scots School Dictionary*, an frae tradeitional precedents an screivins, haes been compared an subjectit ti creiticism bi seein whaur dae thay lead til.

A series o summary recommends haes been drauchtit an subjectit ti like creiticism.

This Report haes been drauchtit an re-drauchtit ti it seems mensefu ti the feck o the Comatee.

The Report haes been circulatit agane for furder comment, wi furder chynges incorporatit.

For a description o the general argiement an analysis at the Report is foondit on, see *Extendit Discussion* (Section 7 ablo.)

5. Summary o principal conclusions

General:

A. Dinna lichtlie invent new weys o spellin at haes naither precedent nor authority. Conseider homogeneity, readabeility, aesthetics, conseistency, diaphonology. Evyte hyperphonetic spellins. Dinna mak it ower hard for the English-thirlt reader: written Scots shuid be accessible ti sic readers.

B. The spellin recommends in this report is airtit maistlie at narrative an expository prose. In maist written leids it's common ti uise phonetic spellins in dialogue, ti indicate local pronunciations, an a mair staandard spellin for the narrative. The mair at general orthographic staandards converges, the aesier the main text can be read, an the clearer the dialect representations will staand oot.

C. It's best ti uise an acceptit dialect staandard for dialect whaur available, whan ye feel ye need ti be siccar o the reader's pronunciation o whit ye screive: sic dialect staandard variants ar includit wi SNDA dictionars. Whaur the recommendations o this Report serrs ti gie a warkable alternative, conseider gin it's necessar ti merk a dialect differ or no. (E.g.: in Nor-Aest screivin, the soond in *muin*, *buit* etc haes aften been rendert wi *-ee-*. But gin the rules herein suggesttit ar follaed for allocation o the *-ui-* digraph, thare needsna be onie ambiguity ti the Nor-Aest reader whit wey thon digraph shuid locally be pronounced. See *Extendit Discussion* ablo.)

The Comatee recognises the primacy o screivers in recordin the leid, an disna ettle ti pit fowk aff uisin dialects o Scots freely in creative screivin. On the contar, we ar eydent at screivers shuid prefer thair ain knowledge o the modren spoken form ower onie fause concept o linguistic staandardisation thay micht imagine we'r ettlin ti habble them wi. E'en in sic screivin, we div think at haudin wi whitiver in oor recommends set oot here can aye be hauden wi, will impruve readabeility an benefit aabodie.

D. Dinna chyng English spellins for words mair or less the same in baith languages, an dinna infringe English consonant rules ti the detriment o recognition an readabeility. General exceptions:

(i) Dialect merkers whaur wantit for dialogue, etc. (e.g.. *fur* for *for*)

(ii) Gey frequent words wi weel-acceptit Scots alternatives, as proposed in the *Shortleet* contained in this Report: sic suggestions is aa contained in the includit wordleet, an follae recent practice: e.g. *thare* for *there*, *thair* for *their*, *ar* for *are*

The Comatee disna conseider it is wyce ti think on daein muckle mair o the like onie time suin, but considered at smaa modifications this gate wis justifee'd wi the maist frequent words in the leid.

Parteicular: (in braid summary)

- E.** Haud wi English consonant rules — *Extendit Discussion*, Section C, D1-D5
- F.** AI/AE/A-E : follaein dictionar practice, makkin slichtlie mair uiss o -AE- nor whit haes been tradeitional — *Extendit Discussion*, Section D6
- G.** AU/AW/AA: hou ti wale amang dictionar variants; retain oreiginal Style Sheet recommend for -AA in words cognate wi English -ALL — *Extendit Discussion*, Section D7
- H.** Final -A, -AE an -U : principles ti regularise chyces amang sic endins — Section D8
- I.** EE/EI/EE : In distinctive Scots words, uise the defaut spellin *-ei-* for the soond representit bi *-ee-* in English. The advantage is at feow ambiguities result an a conseistent rule (for Scots) can be commendit: a rule that serrs ti merk a disteinction an aa, for bairns that ar lairnin Scots an English thegither wi the differs atween thaim. As bairns will lairn the words athoot lairnin the rule at first, kennin at a word is spelt wi an *-ei-* intil't gies thaim the information it's liker a Scots ane, an vice versa, whan thay ar at an age ti conceptualise — Section D9
- J.** IE/EA/EE : uise whaur the word is weel-kent in Scottish English ti be spelt this wey, e'en tho Scots in origin, or the'r anither guid raeson sic as evytance o a homograph, or the spellin is ower weel-established ti chynge. The *Extendit Discussion* gies leets considered mair or less exhaustive for ilka type o exception — Section D9
- K.** In Scots words maistlie o Latin origin at ar cognate wi English words nar the exact same, whan the Scots pronunciation is different bi haein an "ei" soond in a stressed syllable, uise *-ei-* whan the differin syllable is a stressed "i", an uise *-ee-* whan the syllable is a stressed "e" in the English form. Thus: *fameiliar*, *tradeition*, *creitic*; but *speecial*, *weel*, *neever*. This preserrs ee-fameiliarity for English-thirlt readers, nar about aabodie — Section D9
- L.** Final *-ie* : follaein dictionar practice, shuid be used as the defaut spellin for unstressed endins in cuttie Scots words whaur an English word wad for ordnar hae terminal *-y*. As wi the *-ei-* defaut spellin proponed abuin, this will aften serr ti gie lairners a key ti ken the Scots form — Section D10
- M.** Uise *-ou-* for the soond representit bi *-oo-* in English, an haud onie exceptions ti the Scots cognates o words whaur English OU is pronounced "ow" (e.g.: oot, aboot), whaur ambiguity might result — Section D11
- N.** The Comatee commends the uise o the *-ui-* phoneme in aa thae words whaur it covers the dialect variances in words the like o *puir*, *muin* an *spuin*. Correct allocation o this digraph redds a when o variance the Comatee conseiders needless. Dinna splairge it ti cover ither words whaur it disna kythe, an spyle the system — Section D12

- O.** OW/OWE : principles ti regularise chyce atween final -OW forment -OWE — Section D13
- P.** Internal Y/Y-E/I-E : principles ti regularise chyces amang thir options for the internal diphthong — Section D14
- Q.** Single Vowels : discussion o kinches relatit til I/U, O/OA, E/AI. Wi internal U an OA spellin chynge aften seen, recommendit be leimitit til dialect screivin; E as forment AI (eg gaither vs gether) merk a sinderin frae English whan the English cognate haes A, byde wi the E whan the cognate haes an E — Section D15.
- R.** Indeterminate vowels : retain fameiliar vowel letters — Section D16
- S.** Verb endins : rules for idiomatic formation o past tenses in modren Scots, wi regularisations o spellins — Section D17
- T.** Cognates : tables shawin paitrens amang sindrie Scots/English cognates — Section D18.1-3

6. Shortleet o frequent words: recommendit forms

The leet follaein is derived frae a leet (Fry's *Instant Words*) uised in the primary schuils ti lairn bairns the maist important words in English - the maist important cause the maist frequent, as analysed frae speech transcript an published leiterature o aa kynds. Tho the leet is derived frae English, an American English at that, ti judge frae the (oreiginal) appearance intil't o *American* an *Indian*, we tak it frae the sibness o Scots an English at we winna be faur oot in jalousin at thir words is some o the maist frequent in Scots an aa. It is sayed at 65% o aa written English is wrocht oot o thir words, sae we pit the leet forrit in the serious howp at gin fowk uises it, we'll mibbie contreibute ti reddin 65% o oor ain problems! The leet retains aa the shared vocabular whaur the words is the same in baith leids, but rejects the English word whaur the Scots ane is thocht commoner wi Scots spaekers, an is instructive bi wey o the monie differs frae English at kythes. We think we hae excludit ocht at nicht be obscure.

The oreiginal leet haes growen bi its ain logic, acause it wis necessar ti duplicate some o the word-forms ti sinder semantic disteinctions an pairs o speech, an eik oot the leet wi shared words whaur the shared ane bides athin idiomatic Scots. Ither items war addit for tabular completeness.

Pittin the twa leids fornent ilkither this wey begs some quaistens whaur the items listit thegither disna cover the same semantic or idiomatic grund. The Comments column indicates whiles whaur tent maun be taen wi this, an whiles whit the raeson wis the Comatee preferred the form gien ower ither possible Scots forms.

(Nearhaun aa word-forms waled here appears in SNDA dictionars, no necessarily as thair first chyce as heidword.)

Shortleet o Frequent Words in Scots

Nouns

Scots	English	Comments
air	air	
airt	place	cairies the sense o "direction" asweel
answer	answer	
back	back	
baest	animal	but mini-beasts ar <i>baesties</i>
bairn	child	
ben	mountain	
beuk	book	EU raither nor UI afore K - cp. <i>neuk, heuk, leuch</i> .
bit	place	
bodie	body	if a person, pronounced "buddie"; gin a person's body, pronounced "boadie" but spelt the same wey sen American English haes nickit the "buddie" spellin tae maen a frein, wi ither connotations forbye
boy	boy	
caur	car	
cheil	fellow	
childer	children	
ceity	city	
colour	colour	
day	day	
ee	eye	
en(d)	end	it's aye temptin ti hip thir "d"s in Scots - the Comatee advises generally no ti dae it, as it aften kythes agane in derivatives an compoonds.
example	example	
face	face	
faimlie	family	the -ie endin is uised cause the word is itherweys chynged ti mak the Scots spellin. See notes in Extendit Discussion.
faither	father	
feet	feet	
fuid	food	UI phoneme in maist airts. See notes in Extendit Discussion.
form	form	
fower	four	
fowk	people	
gate	way	
group	group	
hail	whole	<i>haill</i> (tho aften seen) braks the dooble-vowel, single consonant rule athoot need, an <i>hale</i> haes anither specialised maenin <i>ti drag</i> , as weel as <i>partnerin hertie</i> whites.
hame	home	
hantle	number	
haun(d), han(d)-	hand	maistlie han(d)- in derived forms
heid	head	
hint	back	
hoose	house	OO for English OU, ti evyite confuision aboot soond
idea	idea	
ile	oil	
kin(d)	kind	

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kintra	country	
laddie	boy	
laun(d), lan(d)-	land	* lan(d)- in derived forms
lassie	girl	
leet	list	Kenspeckle spellin in Scottish Standard English
licht	light	
life	life	
line	line	
loun	boy	OU whaur nae confuision likely.
maet	food	
man	man	
maucht	might	noun form juist
men	men	
mile	mile	
mither	mother	
monie	many	
muisic	music	UI phoneme in maist airts.
name	name	
nicht	night	
page	page	
pairt	part	
paper	paper	
pictur	picture	
plant	plant	
pynt	point	Y for English OI
read	read	
rig	spine, ridge	
river	river	
sang	song	
schuil	school	haudin wi the <i>sch-</i> rather nor <i>sk-</i> or <i>sc-</i> cause o the sib forms frae Latin scholar, scholastic etc, whaur hippin the “h” maks for orra spellin
screive	letter	this form, no recently preferred bi SNDA, kythes nanetheless in SND an is preferred ti regularise the Scots -ei- rule an reflect common recent practice
sea	sea	
sentence	sentence	
side	side	
some	some	nae pronunciation differ tae justifee uisin “sum”, as in some recent practice
something	something	
soond	sound	OO for English OU, ti evyte confuision aboot soond.
state	state	
steid	stead	
stert, start	start	Legeitimate variants
story	story	
thing	thing	
thocht	thought	
three	three	
time	time	
tree	tree	
twa	two	

uiss	use	ti encompass by-leid variants wi the -ui- digraph.
walk	walk	
wark	work	No generally a verbal form
warld	world	
watter	water	Dooblin the “t” shaws the first syllable rhymin wi English “vat”
wean	child	Maistlie soondit “waen”, but a contraction o “wee ane”, an whiles no contractit in spaek, sae better spelt this tradeitional wey
wey	way	
word	word	
year	year	
yird	earth	

Adjectives an Articles.

Scots	English	Comments
a	a	
aa	all	-AA for English an aulder Scots -ALL.
ae	only (one)	<i>ae</i> disna cover aa the uisses o “only” in English. Tho a Scots “anelie” is heard, the word an its uiss is thoct bi maist ti be an invasive English form, a kennin fremmit ti Scots eidiom
ain	own	
an	an	
ane	one	see note on the gremmar o <i>ane</i> vs. <i>wan</i>
anither	another	
auld	old	
baith	both	
ben	inside, etc.	
big	big	
close	close	
different	different	
eneuch	enough	
faur	far	
few	few	
first	first	
guid	good	
hard	hard	
heich	high	EI afore the guttural CH soond - cp. <i>dreich</i> ; ct. <i>beech</i> .
hie	high	
hindmaist	last	
ilka	each, every	
important	important	
ither	other	
iverie	every	
landwart	(rural)	
lang	long	
late	late	
left	left	
last	last	the form <i>lest</i> seems ti be juist verbal, no adjectival
little	little	
ma / my	my	for some spaekers, <i>ma</i> is the unemphatic, <i>my</i> the emphatic; for ithers <i>ma</i> is used baith weys

mair	more	
maist	most	
muckle	big, large	
nae	no	
nearhaun	close	
new	new	
nummer	number	
puckle	few	
rael	real	
richt	right	
saicont	second	
same	same	
sic	such	
smaa	small	-AA for English an aulder Scots -ALL.
the	the	
twa-three	few	
wan	one	
wee	little, small	
weel	well	EE correspondin ti English E, for readabeility.
when	many	whiles, less commonly, fowk uses this ti mean <i>few</i>
white	white	
young	young	

Conjunctions, Adverbs an Prepositions

Scots	English	Comments
-na	(n't)	
(a)cause	because	
aamaist	almost	
ablo	below	
aboot	about	
abuin	above	
aff	off	
afore	before	
aften	often	
again	again	
ahint	behind (after)	juist in some idioms; <i>efter</i> for <i>after</i> maistlie
aince	once	
alang	along	
an	and	
an aa	also	see entry ablo at <i>forbye</i>
anent	concerning	
aroon(d)	around	
as	as	
at	at	
athoot	without	<i>wioot</i> is heard an aa, but athoot seemed the better selection for this leet, sib ti a nummer o Scots words o this type aa stertin wi an "a".
atween	between	
awa	away	

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aye	always, still	
but	but	
by, bi	by	<i>By</i> in the sense o “past”, <i>walking past a door = walkin by a door</i> . <i>Bi</i> in aa ither senses an uisses.
doun	down	
e'en	even	
efter	after	
for	for	
forbye	also	<i>forbye</i> is uised at the end o phrases, an nicht cairie the English senses “as well” or “into the bargain” or “besides” - but canna be uised aa the weys <i>also</i> nicht be uised in English. “ <i>Alsae</i> ” is heard, but isna that common, an tends tae be a kynd o Trojan horse for English syntax an cliché <i>forbye</i> .
fae, frae	from	suggestit at <i>frae</i> is better for general uiss as “r” is whiles soondit
gey an	very	
gif, if	if	
gin	if	
gin	until, before, when, by the time that	
here	here	
in	in	
inti	into	
intil	into	gey aften uised as <i>intil</i> ’t at the end o phrases
iver	ever	<i>ivver</i> nicht be mair logical bi consonant rules, but v’s disna normally dooble cause thay nicht leuk like w’s syne
juist	just	UI phoneme: variously soondit <i>joost / jist / jeest</i> different airts
like, lik	like	the <i>lik</i> form aften intrudes as an unemphatic - the Comatee haesna generally recommendit uiss o unemphatic forms ootby some pronouns, but this is a <i>gey</i> common ane
mibbie	maybe	
muckle	much	
naur	near	the form <i>naur</i> mibbie isna aa that common some airts, whaur fowk juist says <i>near</i> , an is whiles soondit as <i>nar</i> . <i>Naur</i> is preferred, permittin the <i>nar</i> pronunciation aesier nor the ither wey roon.
na	no	Better form for non-regional uiss nor <i>naw</i> .
neist	next	
niver	never	<i>Neever</i> is heard, no sae commonly
no	not	Better form for non-regional uiss nor <i>nae</i> .
nor	than	
nou	now	
o	of	
oot	out	
oot ower	over	
or	or	
or	until, before	
ower	over; too	better nor <i>owre</i> , at tends ti gie smaa wecht ti the disyllabic pronunciation
sae	so	
siccan	such	
tae	too	
than	then	
thegither	together	

thonder	there	
throu	through	
til, ti	to	nae simple wey o sayin whan ti uise <i>ti</i> an whan <i>til</i> : this varies frae airt ti airt
till	until	
unner	under	Under is uised an aa, but it wis considered the “d” is mair aften elidit than itherweys in words o this ilk like <i>thunner</i> , <i>hunner</i> etc
up	up	
verra	very	
while	while	
whiles	sometimes	
wi	with	
yet	still	eidomatic uise o <i>yet</i> in Scots differs frae eidomatic uise o <i>still</i> in English; e.g.: he's still sleeping = he's sleepin yet
yont	along	

Waek Verbs

Infin + Past Endin	English	Comments
add -it	add	
answer -t	answer	
ask -ed, aks -t	ask	
awn -ed	own	
birl -t	turn	
caa -d	call	
cairie, cairiet	carry	
chynge -d	change	
clype, clypit	tell	in the sense o tellin on a bodie, informin against
cry -ed (cried)	call	
cut -tit	cut	
daff -t	play	
daunder -t	wander	
eik -it	add	
ettle, ettelt	try	
flit -tit	move	
follae -d	follow	
gar -t	cause	
gie -d	give	pp <i>gien</i>
growe -d	grow	pp <i>growen</i>
help -it	help	
jee ‘d	move	in parteicular senses o move, ithergates muve. Verbs endin wi dooble ee haes ti uise an apostrophe ti evyte triple e in the past tense.
keep -it	keep	
ken -t	know	
kep -pit	catch	
kythe -d	seem	
lairn -t	learn	
lest -it	last	but the idiomatic adjective is <i>last</i> , same as English
leuk -it	look	
leive -d	live	
muve -d	move	

need -it	need	
open -t	open	
play -ed	play	the form pley / pleyed is mibbie ower local ti recommend for general uiss.
pree 'd	try, taste, sample	
prieve -d	try, taste, sample	
pruve -d	prove	past participle <i>pruven</i>
repone -d	reply	gey leiterary Scots
screive -d	write	
shaw -ed	show	
sneck -it	latch	
sned -dit	sned, cut	
speir -ed	ask	
spell -t	spell	
stap -pit	stop, stuff	
start -it/stert-it	start	
steek -it	shut	
stell -t	place	
stey -d (in / at)	live	in the sense o <i>dwel</i> (in / at)
stop -pit	stop, halt	In sense o Eng. <i>halt</i> .
study, studied	study	
talk -ed	talk	nicht expect <i>talkit</i> , but we didna think it aften kythes, likely cause uise o the verb <i>spaek</i> is commoner in Scots
tell -t	tell	
traivel -t	walk	Final -EL efter V.
try -ed (or: tried)	try	
turn -t	turn	
tyne, <i>pt/pp</i> tint	lose, miss	
uise -d	use	
walk -it	walk	
want -it	want	
watch -t	watch	

Strang an Irregular Verbs

Verb (Infin; Past; Past Participle.)	English	Comments
begin	begin	
begoud	began	
begun	begun	
bide	live, reside	
bade	lived	
bidden	lived	Also a waek <i>pt</i> an <i>pp</i> - <i>bidit</i> .
come	come	
cam	came	
come	come (pp)	
aet	eat	
ett	ate	
aeten / etten	eaten	

fin(nd)	find	
fan(nd)	found (pt)	
fun(nd)	found (pp)	
gang, gae	go	
gaun, gaein	going	
gaed	went	
gaen	gone	
git	get	
gat	got (pt)	
gotten	get (pp)	
lea(ve)	leave	
left	left (pt, pp)	
lat	let	
luit	let (pt)	
latten	let (pp)	
mak	make	
made	made (pt, pp)	Also a weak <i>pt</i> and <i>pp</i> - <i>makkit</i> .
pit	put	
pat	put (pt)	
pitten	put (pp)	
read	read	
read	read (pt)	
rin	run	
ran	ran	
run	run (pp)	
say	say	
sayed	said	
see	see	
saw	saw	
seen	seen	
set	set (p, pt, pp)	
spaek	speak	reversin the -ea- digraph ti merk the fact at in Scots this verb is variously soondit as <i>speak</i> , <i>spake</i> , <i>spik</i>
spak	spoke	Maistlie ae wey soondit
spoken	spoken	
tak	take	
teuk	took	
taen	taken	

think	think	
thocht	thought (pt, pp)	
win	win, gain, etc.	
wan	won	
wun	won	
work	work	
wrocht	worked (pt, pp)	
write	write	
wrat(e)	wrote	
written	written	

Frequent an Auxiliary Verbs.

Verb	Negative	English	Comments
be		be	
am	amna	am	
is	isna	is	
ar	arna	are	
wis	wisna	was	
war	warna	were	
been		been	
dae	dinna	do	
dis	disna	does	
did	didna	did	
duin		done	
div	divna	do	As auxiliary only. Ither tenses like <i>dae</i> .
hae	haena	have	
haes	haesna	has	
haed	haedna	had	
haen		had	(past participle)
hiv	hivna	have	Ither tenses like <i>hae</i> .
can	canna	can, may	
cuid	cuidna	could	exception ti general rules on uiss o -ui- phoneme
micht	michtna	may, might	
maun	maunna	must	
shuid	shuidna	should	exception ti general rules on uiss o -ui- phoneme, <i>soud</i> in some airts whaur the "s" isna aspiratit
will	winna	will	
wad	wadna	would	

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dow	downa	be able	
docht	dochtna	was able	

Personal Pronouns.

Person	Normal		Informal Only		English	Comments
	Emphatic	Unemphatic	Emphatic	Unemphatic		
<i>Singular</i>						
1	I, A				I	Baith permissible, mibbie no wyce ti uise baith in the same text
	me				me	
	ma or my	ma			my	
	mine(s)				mine	
2	you	ye	youse		you	
	your	yer			your	
	yours				yours	
3	he				he	
	him				him	
	his				his	
	she				she	
	her		hur		her	
	hers		hurs		hers	
	hit	it			it	emphatic form rarer
	hits	its			its	emphatic form rarer
<i>Plural</i>						
1	we				we	
	us		hiz, huz		us	
	oor	oor / wir	wir		our	
2	you	ye	yiz, youse		you	
	your	yer			your	
	yours				yours	
3	thay				they	
	thaim	them			them	
	thair	thur			their	

Basic Interrogatives.

Scots	English	Comments
wha	who	
whase	whose	
whaur	where	
whit	what, which	
whan	when	
why	why	
whit wey, whit for	why, how	for whit raeson
hou	how	in whit mainer

Relatives

Scots	English	Comments
at, that	that, which, who	

Demonstratives.

Scots	English	Comments
here	here	
thare	there	
this	this, these	
that	that, those	
thir	these	
thae	those	
yon	that, those	
thon	that, those	

Note on Forms Different frae SSD/CESD.

1. SSD aften hips forms whaur thay'r the same as English - e.g.: *write, made, run* (pp. o *rin*) - or seimilar ti English - e.g.: *wun*. Sae this leet inevitably includes forms at's no in SSD.
2. SSD aften hips tradeitional past tenses - e.g.: *fannd, saw, teuk* - in favour o convergent anes (*fund, taen, seen*), whaurbyes this leet, bein concerned wi spellin, gies the spellin o the tradeitional tenses, the spellin o the convergent anes (e.g.: *seen* as past tense) bein assumed ti be the same as the ither tense (e.g.: *seen* as past participle) at thay converge wi.
3. SSD whiles gies seeveral dialect variants (*lat, loot, leet* for the past tense o *lat*) whaur this report wad recommend ae diaphonemic form (*luit*).
4. Ither differs is simply takkin a mair common spellin nor the SSD ane - sae *bade* - or a mair transparent ane - e.g.: *haed*, formed bi eikin the -D ti the ruit form *hae*, whaur SSD haes the mair phonetic *hid*.

7. Extendit discussion o parteicular eissues

A. General Approach.

The follaein is the general approach taen bi the Comatee ti the quaisten o Scots spellin:

1. Identifee rules o thom foondit on the SNDA spellins, as seen in *The Concise English Scots Dictionary* an *The Scots School Dictionary*.

In view o the likely influence o the SNDA dictionars on the reddin up o Scots spellin, an asweel ti evyte the obvious undesirabeility o haein mair nor ae staandard, it seems mensefu ti uise thae dictionars as a foond for onie spellin recommends. This approach laeds inevitably ti some depairtures frae the earlier *Recommendations for Writers in Scots* - speeciellie in the case o consonants, whaur recommends ti uise, for ensample, dooble K an final -IL in words like *mukkil* haes been revised the airt o the SNDA-type spellins ti gie raither CK an -LE - e.g.: *muckle*.

The uiss o the same consonant spellin conventions for the hail leid lats the speeciifically Scots vocabular mell thegither veisuually wi the vocabular shared wi English (at is juist as muckle Scots as it is English) helpin ti present Scots as a hail an homogenous language.

2. Identifee ither criteria for reddin up some o the quaistens at the dictionar spellins leaves unanswert.

On the ither haund, the SNDA Scots-English dictionars isna ettelt at the upbiggin o a narrative an expository prose, aften giein twa or three variants o a word. Ti gie mair guidance ti screivers ettlin ti write non-regional prose - as fornent the equally legeitimate writin o speeciific dialects - this report seeks ti establissh criteria for walin amang sic variants.

For ensample, SSD maistlie gies twa-three variants for words like *ca*, *caa*, *caw*; *windae*, *winda*; *cannae*, *canna*, etc; an whiles sinder regional maiks o gremmatically seimilar words like *mensefu* but *yuissfae*. This reflects the situation at hauds in Scots spellin evenou; but for narrative an expository ettles espeeeciially a mair neutral an consistent orthography is uissfu.

This is shawn i the follaein sentences:

A helpfae mannie cannae pass a weidae's windae.

A helpfa mannie canna pass a weida's winda.

A helpfu mannie canna pass a weidae's windae

The first o thir spellins leuks vaguely like a dialect frae somewey Central or faurer Sooth, an the saicont ane cuid be frae somewey i the North Aest. But the third ane disna leuk like onie kind o dialect in parteicular, tho it's certainly Scots. Houaniver, altho it disna correspond phonetically ti the wey oniebodye spaeks, it can be eithlie eneuch read oot wi the pronunciations o onie dialect ye like. It's a kynd o neutral spellin at cuid serr for aa dialects.

Seimilarly:

I gaed ti the haw ti caw the craw awaw aff the waw.

I gaed ti the haa ti caa the craa awaa aff the waa.

I gaed ti the haa ti caw the craw awa aff the waa.

Again, the first sentence leuks like a Central or siclike type o dialect, an the saicont like a Northern ane. But the third ane canna be pinned down ti onie dialect in parteicular. This report seeks mainly ti gie rules o thoom for walin oot sic neutral spellins frae among the variants.

Whiles the main recommendit form winna be in the Scots-English dictionars. This is for seeveral raesons:

a). Whiles diaphonemic spellins at can cover aa by-leids is recommendit. Sae, whaur SSD gies the dialect variants *yiss* an *eeese*, the report recommends at thir twa can baith be written *uiss*, in the same wey at the dialect variants "gyid", "gweed" an "göd" is aa commonly written *guid*.

b). SSD an CESD aften gies forms only whaur thay differ frae the English - sae only the West Central form *ur* is gien as the Scots equeivalent o *am*, whaurbyes in maist Scots dialects *am* is the same as the English. In the tablies an word leets, than, the report inevitably gies forms at winna be in SSD an CESD.

Seimilarly, SSD whiles gies only unemphatic forms o words (e.g. *bit* for *but*) - espeeially frequent words like prepositions, pronouns an conjunctions whaur the emphatic form is the same as the English. This report recommends at the emphatic form o ilka word be used as the main form (e.g. *but*, *for*) whether it's the same as the English form or no, wi the unemphatic or local variants (*bit*, *fur*, *thum*, etc) reserved for dialect, dialogue, drama, an ither spaek-thirlt forms o creative writin.

Scowth o the Ettle.

The repones ti the ineitial Spellin Consultation identified twa braid swathes o opeinion. Some wis in favour o nerraein spellin options i the ettle ti win til an orthographic staandard, an ithers wis in favour o haein a wide reinge o spellins, emphasisin raither the spontaneous, oral an local aspects o the leid. This report seeks ti tak tent o baith the non-regional an ither uisses o the leid, bi recognisin thair sindrie purposes.

The consensus o the November 1996 Collogue wis at "the definition of a standard spelling system for a broad transcription of Scots should be the priority." This recognises at screivers at wants ti represent parteicular characteristics o the spoken language - whether in dialogue, playscripts, poetry, or ither spaek-thirlt types o screivin - will dae that, an ti try ti mak rules about it is nearhaun pyntless. On the ither haund, the want o a non-regional orthography - for uiss in exposition, narrative, reportin, schuil texts, an ither types o writin at's the prerogative o English eenou - is a haudback ti the forderin o the language as a hail. This report daels mainly - tho no exclusively - wi this saicont area, whaur the formulation o rules is possible.

The main aim, than, is ti mak possible a general orthography at can brig dialects an registers, athoot takkin ower frae the sindrie functions an written representations o aither. Sindrie screivers will can tak tent o it or no ti suit thair indiveidual purposes muckle as thay dae areadies wi English. Philosophically, this ettles ti represent Scots as a language in its ain richt - but a language wi dialects.

Soond-Thirlt Writin (Poetry, Drama, Dialect, etc.)

In dialect, dialogue, an ither forms o creative writin, it's aften necessar or desirable ti pit ower the particularity o naitural spaek. Ti some extent the'r nae rules at can apply ti this, an ividual screivers will dae it in differin weys. Housomever, there is some pynts at can be uissfu:

- a) Monie dialects haes existin staundards at can be referred til.
- b) In general, regairdin dialects as by-leids o Scots raither nor o English, an shawin variations frae Scots norms raither nor English anes (especially i the uiss o apostrophes) will forder perception o Scots as a language.
- c) Sin maist dialect differs is i the vowels (wi obvious kenspeckle exceptions like North Aest F for WH), rules o thum for consonants - e.g.: CK raither nor KK - is maistlie equally applicable ti onie form o Scots writin.
- d) Neutral spellins needna mean neutral language. The syntax an vocabular o onie dialect or register o Scots cuid be expressed uisin the same orthography. Only phonetic differs needs ither spellins ti pit thaim ower.

Types o spellins at micht be regairdit as mair appropriate for dialogue an siclike nor for non-regional, narrative or expository scribevin is e.g.:

Spellins at tends ti emphasise regional pronunciations, like *yaise, fan, craa, awaw, pör* raither nor the mair neutral *uise, whan, craw, awa, puir*.

OA for O, e.g.: *oan, shoap*, whaur mair neutral spellins wad hae *on an shop*.

AA medial in words like *waant, waash* - mair neutral *want, wash*.

U for I, e.g.: *tull, wull* - mair neutral *till, will*.

Hyperphonetic spellins in general, like *sumhin, urnae, jiwanni?* for *something, arna, dae ye want ti?*

Aesthetics.

The ineitial spellin collogue o 10/11/96 recognised at "only what was attractive and accessible could make headway." The concept o attractiveness is aiblins ower subjective ti provide muckle o a criterion bi itsel, but accessibeility - keepin in mynd that the ettle maun be ti interest fowk, siclike as schuilbairns an teachers, at haesna muckle interest in written Scots evenou - is a uissfu test for onie proponed spellin reforms.

Accessibeility is maistlie covered under ither principles ablo. Some ither aesthetic concerns is as follaes:

1. Auld Farrantness v. Orra English.

The principle o writin Scots athoot apologetic apostrophes is nou maistlie acceptit. Houaniver, furder ettles ti sinder Scots frae English can whiles gie rise ti spellins at leuks auld-farrant ti a modren reader. Ae ensample is the practice o pittin the -IT endin on verbs at maistlie wadna hae it in spaek, like *jalousit, speirit, usit* an *kythit* (better *jaloused, speirt, uised* an *kythed*).

On the ither haund, attempts ti spell Scots wi meimum chynge frae English, while ineitially mair readable, is likely ti faa inti *ad hoc* inconsistency. Sae some writers micht keep the OU spellin in a word like *hous*, cause ye can juist leave aff the English final -E, but

uise the fameiliar English OO spellin in words like *doon* ti shaw the chynge in pronunciation. Anither writer micht uise OO in baith - *hoose*, *doon* - whaur a third micht uise *hoose* an *doun*. This gies rise ti a fouth o variant spellins o the same word.

The perception o this is o coorse a maiter o opeinion. In some views, the -ie endin on lang words like *analogie* an *ambiguitie*; the internal Y in words like *tyme* an *wyfe*; the dooble L efter a dooble-letter vowel in *weill* an *haill* an the uiss o EI in kenspeckle words like *weit*, *neip* an *yeir*, aa maks the leid leuk auld-farrant an inaccessible, whaurbyes i the view o ithers it maks it leuk mair like a leid in its ain richt bi internal conseistency, emphasisin the differ frae English. Conversely, ti some fowk the EE an OO spellins favoured bi the *Scots School Dictionary* haes the advantage o bein fameiliar, clear an unambiguous, whaurbyes ti ithers thay hae nae historical precedence an mak the leid leuk like orra English.

This report seeks ti gie criteria for mid-gates atween the differin approaches, stertin frae the types o spellins favoured bi the Scottish National Dictionary Association (SNDA).

2. Owerspellin an Ee Dialect

The quaisten o owerspellin o Scots wis a concern at kythed in the ineitial debate - in parteicular the quaisten o alterin spellin o English words, an the tension atween systematic spellins an the problem o same-soondin words haein the same spellin. Thae concerns is addressed ithergates i the report.

Houaniver, there is a differ o perception in the aesthetic (as fornent practical) effect o the spellin o Scots words at soonds the same in Scots an Scottish English - siclike as *tung*, *thare*, *thair*, etc. Frae ae pynt o view, thae spellins is simply reddin illogical English spellins in favour o conseistency, an makkin Scots leuk mair like a language in its ain richt. Frae anither pynt o view, sic spellins suggests "ee dialect" (see e.g.: airticle in [The Oxford Companion to the English Language](#)) - the practice o representin illeteracy bi misspellin English words in dialogue or narrative e'en tho thay'r sayed the same in staandard English. Logically, o coorse, this isna relevant if Scots is regairdit as a language raither nor a by-leid o English, but it micht be the effect on English-thirlt readers aa the same.

Frae a practical pynt o view, the issue is atween logical conseistency on the ae haund, an the educational disadvantages o haein twa spellins for the same word on the ither.

3. Apologetic Apostrophes

Apostrophes shuidna be uised ti shaw "missin" English letters - e.g.: *he'rt*, *ca'*, *ha'e*, *wi'* - but is better uised ti shaw missin Scots anes - e.g.: *'im* (*him*), *'e* (*he*, *the*), *'is* (*this*) etc. This haes the effect o lattin Scots by-leids be seen as dialects o Scots raither nor English.

In a feow frequent words siclike as *i(n)*, *o(f)*, *(th)at* (relative), *(a)cause*, whaur the forms ahoot the bracketit letters is aither the ordnar form or gey common, nae apostrophe is necessar - cp. the English variants o the indefinite airticle, *a* an *an*. Seimilarly, pairs like *hae* an *hiv*, *lea* an *leave*, can be regairdit as independent variants. In forms like *e'en*, houaniver, whaur the optional letter is internal, we micht leifer uise the apostrophe ([In this case, evytin a homograph wi *een* asweel](#)).

4. Presentation.

Mair general aesthetic concerns haes adae wi the general appearance o the written language, an whether it shuid be presentit as thirlt ti the vernacular (a basolect) or as potentially a leid

wi the same scowth o dialects an registers as onie ither language. This presupposition will affect types o spellins uised - compare, e.g.: *tyauve*, *teuch*, *eidiot*, *maun*, *on*, *till* an *na* wi *chaave*, *chooch*, *eejit*, *mun*, *oan*, *tull* an *naw*.

The Comatee haes taen the view at mair neutral spellins - like *tyauve*, *till*, *na*, etc - shuid be recommendit i the first instance, an varied frae for creative purposes as needit, muckle as we dae evenou wi English.

B. General Principles.

The follaein is general principles the Comatee considered uissfu in thinkin about the spellins wun til in this Report.

1. Precedence

While it's generally mensefu no ti create new spellins, the fouth o variants leetit i the bigger dictionars means at precedence alane isna muckle uiss as a guide. For this raeson it is recommendit at the SSD an CESD - type spellins shuid be taen as an ineitial general basis for the spellin o unique Scots words. The traetment o thae spellins i this blad is at twa levels:

a) Rules o thom for winnin til a hie degree o compatibeility wi SSD-type spellins, wi recommends for possible reddin up o sindrie inconsistencies kythin in thaim.

b) Rules o thom for gaun ayont the scowth o the dictionars - parteicularly in walin amang variants like *ca*, *caa* an *caw* - for thaim at's etlin ti screive aither in dialect on the ae haund, or in a non-regional staandard on the ither.

2. Readability

We lairn written leids maistlie bi readin thaim, sae the mair Scots is read the mair will be lairnt, the mair spoken, the mair written. A hie priority o onie ettles ti forder Scots shuid be ti mak it mair aesier ti read.

The twa main things at helps readability is fameiliarity - evytin orra spellins o kenspeckle words - an conseistency.

3. Conseistency

Ane o the problems wi Scots spellin haes been at the fouth o variants uised haes made it if oniething mair inconsistent nor the notoriously inconsistent English.

Here a disteinction maun be made atween sindrie kinds o conseistency an inconseistency.

1. Ae soond (phoneme) ti ae spellin (grapheme).

In this type o system, there wad only be ae spellin for ilka soond i the leid. Sae if AU wis waled ti represent the soond in *auld*, than *bawbee* an *waa* wad be spelt *baubee* an *wau*. This kind o system is aaricht for spellin languages - siclike as African or Sooth American anes - at haes nae written history ava, but in the case o Scots it wad lead ti orra spellins o kenspeckle words.

2. Ae soond ti monie spellins.

Haein mair nor ae spellin staundin for the same soond - e.g.: EE, EI, I.E. an EA for the "ee" soond in *weet*, *speir*, *bien* an *gean* - isna o itsel muckle o a problem for readers, as lang as thay ken at thae spellins can only staund for that soond. It can, houeever, be a problem for the writer, cause it maks spellins harder ti mynd, an can lead ti confuisin variants - e.g.: *neep*, *neip*, *neap* - i the spellin o the same word.

Sae the problem o Scots spellin is maistlie ane o hou ti wale amang the differin possible weys o spellin the same soond. This report suggests rules o thoom, foondit on existin tendencies in Scots spellin, at can be used as spellin guidelines.

3. Ae spellin ti monie soonds.

On the ither haund, haein ae spellin staundin for mair nor ae soond (phoneme) - like EA in English *steak*, *each* an *bread*, or UI in Scots *fruit*, *luik*, *pruive*, *cūiter* an *tuim* (whaur the spellin is uised ower lowsslie ti provide a guide ti the pronunciation) - is a problem for aabodie, an shuid be evytit. In the leet abuin, *tuim* haes the same dialect variations as *guid* (see Diaphonology ablo) at justifies the UI spellin. For the ithers the'r ither historical spellins - e.g.: *fit*, *leuk*, *pruve*, *couthier* - at can better represent the soonds.

The Comatee haes acceptit that wyce uiss o the -ui- digraph can uissfullie cover a variety o soonds unner ae written form - see *Diaphonology* ablo.

4. The main principle o consistency is at ae word shuid aye be spelt the same wey (exceptin variants for emphasis o words like pronouns in dialogue, etc.) at laest athin the same text.

4. Homogeneity

Ti gar the English cognate words in Scots mell thegither wi the unique (or caractereistically) Scots anes until ae coherent leid, the spellins o baith kinds shuid be braidlie compatible wi ither. This can be addressed at different levels.

a) Strict Phonological Homogeneity. Bi this criterion, baith English Cognate an Unique Scots vocabular wad be spelt wi uniform soond-ti-spellin correspondences. Sae the cognates o English *seek* an *sick* wad baith be spelt *seik*, wi the same EI spellin as the caractereistic Scots words *speir* an *sweir*.

b) Veisual Homogeneity. A less rigorous approach wad try ti evyte obvious, purely graphemic clashes atween spellin practices - siclike as *mukkil* fornent *buckle* - but wad accommodate spellins like *seek* an *seik*, wi different meanins, ti evyte confuisin homographs. This is the gate the Comatee haes gane.

5. Diaphonology

Scots haes a fouth o by-leids. In some cases - siclike as the North East uiss o *nae* raither nor *no* wi the meanin o English *not* (e.g.: "I'm nae gaun") - the differs atween thaim is juist differs; but in ither cases, the'r spellins at can serr for aa dialects. The historical spellins *ane* an *ae*, for ensample, can be pronounced "een" an "ee" or "yin" an "yae" dependin on dialect; the word *guid* can be pronounced as "gyid", "gid", "gweed" or "göd", an *uise* as "yaize", "eeze" or "öze". Diaphonemic spellins serrs ti redd up the ravelment caused by sae monie variants, athoot emphasisin the pronunciation o ae dialect ower anither.

Priorities.

It's obvious at the principles abuin will whiles come inti conflict wi ane anither. For ensample, a conseistent representation o ae soond by ae spellin wad come inti conflict wi the desire ti sinder same-soondin words (say, *seek*, meanin "look for", frae *seek* or *seik* meanin "no weel") as an aid ti readabeility.

As a result o this, differin spellin practices haes arisen dependin on whit principle haes taen priority. Ti finnd a mid-gait atween preferences for different rulin principles, it is suggestit at aa principles haes ti be taen inti accoont, an gien different priorities for different purposes - horses for coorses. For ensample:

For consonants - whaur the'r maistlie little dout aboot pronunciation - it is suggestit at homogeneity be the main principle, an consonants be spelt efter fameiliar English practice, lattin the unique Scots words mell veisually wi English cognate anes - e.g.: *feck* wi *deck*; *muckle* wi *buckle*; *ettle* wi *settle*; *vennel* wi *funnel*; *scart* wi *scan*; *skirl* wi *skiff*, etc.

For vowels, whaur maist phonological differs frae English kythes, diaphonology an conseistency shuid be the main principles, gien spellins at provides as accurate a guide ti pronunciation as is practicable, conseistent wi evytin haein ower monie unnecessar variant forms o frequent words.

Precedence an readabeility is mair general principles, at shuid be taen inti accoont aaway.

C. General Method.

For practical purposes, the'r three braid categories o words at haes ti be daelt wi in Scots spellin:

1. Words wi obvious cognates in staandard English, at micht be pronounced the same as in Scottish Staandard English (identical cognates, e.g.: *cat*, *road*), or wi differences in pronunciation (close cognates, e.g.: *hame*, *doun*).
2. Words unique til or characteristic o Scots, e.g.: *bairn*, *cromach*.
3. Frequent words - maistlie pronouns an prepositions - whaur the tradeitional spellins micht be anomalous, e.g.: *wi* (whaur the final "ee" soond is irregularly spelt *-i*). In this report, thae words is daelt wi in the word leets.

English Cognates

English Cognate words can be sindered inti anes at's sayed the same as English (Identical Cognates) an anes at's sayed different (Close Cognates).

1. Sayed the same as English (Identical Cognates).

a) Logical in English - *read* (present tense), *spear*, *need*, *room*, etc.

Here the'r nae need ti alter the English spellin. Gin the abuin vowel spellins is retained in the (common) spellins o some words an forms o words characteristic o Scots - e.g.: *gean*, *beadle*, *ee*, *weet*, *oot*, *aboot*, etc. - than retainin thaim in kenspeckle English cognates baith aids readabeility an preserrs the veisual homogeneity o the leid as a hail.

Only the pronunciation o Scottish Staandard English need be taen accoont o

here. The'r nae pynt tryin ti shaw hou Scots differs frae Received Pronunciation or "BBC" English. English pronunciations o English is irrelevant for Scottish purposes.

b) Illogical in Scottish English itsel - *read* (past tense), *tongue*, *sugar*, *door*, *ready*.

Here it's a chyce atween ettlin for mair phonological conseistency within Scots, or retainin the ideographic kenspeckleness o the English spellins. (See also Aesthetics, abuin.) The Comatee haes taen the view at the feck o thir is best latten alane, as ettlin ti redd thaim can mak some gey unrecognisable an orra words, or reproduce the homographs some sic words ar mibbie creatit ti evyte.

2. Sayed different frae English (Close Cognates).

a) Meinimal chynge, e.g.: - *jeelly*, *maitter*, *mainner*, *seeck*, *jaicket*.

This creates non-homogenous consonant dooblins - e.g.: dooble consonants efter dooble letter vowels, an single anes efter single letter vowels - at kythes naither i English cognate nor unique Scots vocabular.

b) Meinimal wi orthographic adjustments - *jeely*, *maiter*, *mainer*, *seik*, *jaiket*..

Here consonants is made single efter dooble-letter vowels. This means at shared an unique vocabular is spelt homogeneously, wi the same consonant rules.

c) Wi differin systems for Scots bi English - *jeelie* (SSD), *jeilie* (Innin, etc.).

Here the English spellins is replaced by anes frae a different system, creatin heterogeneity as forment identical cognates like *wheel*, *silly*.

3. The orthography commendit bi the Comatee taks the follaein approach:

a) Aa identical cognate words wi logical spellins an the same meanins is spelt as English, e.g.: *time*, *cartoon*, *green*, *here*, *spear*, etc. Exceptions ti this war acceptit bi the Comatee in cases whaur the Scots word cairies sindrie different meanins frae the English ane. (Sae no raelie identical: the likes o *wyfe*, *kynd*, *mynd*.)

b) Identical cognates wi illogical spellins in English - e.g.: *read* (past tense), *door* - is maistlie spelt the same as English, tho wi some exceptions, parteicularly in kenspeckle frequent words like pronouns.

c) Close cognates is maistlie spelt different frae English only whaur the principal phonological differ kythes - sae *tradeition*, *oreiginal*, *efter*, *pictur*, *eidiot*, raither nor *tradeishun*, *oreijinil*, *eftir*, *pictir*, *eejit*.

An exception ti this, follaein SSD practice, is that terminal -ie endins ar uised gin a short or frequent word is modifee'd internally, as it wis conseidered at sic a word micht as weel be haled ower ti the Scots system: thus, *jeelie* wad be the recommendit form raither nor *jeely*. (English cognate "e" gaun ti "ee" raither nor "ei" in this case.)

Tho the'r historical precedent for forms like "tradeitionallie", the Comatee conseidered at in

thae cases o langer words, whit wad be tint in readeility an homogeneity pyntit against onie sic practice.

d) Simple alteration o an English cognate whiles causes orra forms - maistlie consonant dooblins - ti kythe. Thir is normally conformed ti uisual spellin conventions.

maiter, jaiket (cognate wi Eng. *matter* an *jacket*): single medial consonant - i.e.: T an K raither nor TT an CK - efter dooble-letter vowel (SSD *maitter, jaicket*).
souk an *seik* (cognate wi Eng. *suck* an *sick*): single final consonant - i.e.: K raither nor CK - efter dooble-letter vowel.

An exception is at thare is a problem wi the like o thir:

mysell, ainsell, etc. - final -LL efter a single letter vowel, bi analogy wi *bell, fell*, etc.

Gin this is duin, in the case o the component *sel* for Eng. *self*, we arrive at phrases the like o “thair ain sells” whaur the eidiom braks “thairsells” in twa, an we hae syne an orra-leukin homograph at swicks the ee.

e) This report follaes SSD an CESD in recommendin -ie endins for caractereistically Scots vocabular an words wi close (but no identical) English cognates, as in 2(c) abuin; sae *cannie, brawlie* but *funny, sadly*, etc.

D. Unique or Caractereistically Scots Words.

Consonants.

D1. Ineitial K an SK.

Inieitial K afore E, I, Y an N; itherweys ineitial C.

kirk, kep, kye, knap, caw, craig, etc.

The abuin rule hauds maistlie in English, sae lattin the unique an shared vocabular in Scots mell thegither, an it's aesie ti apply. The only exceptions in SSD is the kenspeckle *kail/kale* an *kame*, an a puckle oddities (onomatopoeic *kae; Katie Bairdie; kalk* an *kach* as variants o *cauk* an *cack*; an the cuirious *kwerious*).

In English, the same rule hauds for ineitial SK. Here, however, SSD is less consistent, an the follaein variant o the rule is suggestit for mair (tho no complete ¹) compatibeility.

SK afore E, I, Y, an AI/AE/A-E

skirl, skelp, skylie, skail, skaith, etc

¹ SSD generally follaes the uiswal English practice (SK only afore E, I an Y) excep the follaein:

SK afore AI an A-E, (excep *scaillie*)

SK afore L in 7 words - *sklent, skleft, skleush, skliff, sklinter, sklone, sklyte*.

SK afore OO in 3 words - *scoosh, skool, skook*

SK afore R in 7 words - *skraich, skrankie, skrauch, skreek, skreich, skrink, skrunkit*

SKL afore E, I, Y, except for words wi obvious variants in SL- or CL-

skliff, sklyte, sklent, etc; but *sclim, sclice, sclender*, etc

SC an SCL itherweys.

scauld, scone, scrauchle, scribe, sclaff, sclatch, etc

Nae guideline is possible ti tak tent o *SSD*'s antrin uiss o SK afore R an OO, an it is suggestit at SC be uised insteid - sae: *scoosh, scool, scook, scraich, scrankie, scrauch, screik, screich, scrink, scrunkit* - ti mell better wi *SSD*'s general practice.

D2. Terminal -LE efter maist consonants (*muckle, bauchle*), **itherweys -EL** (*vennel, traivel, raivel* - aften efter NN or V) **an -L efter IR** (*birl, skirl*)

D3. CK raither nor KK.

feck, hallirackit, puddock, ruckie, etc.

SSD haes dooble K in a feow participles, e.g.: *takkin, makkin, shakken, brukken*

D4. Dooble consonants efter normal English uiss:

D4.1. Medial

Dooble efter single-letter vowel (CK for dooble K)

smeddum, habber, hagger, limmer, sotter, hippin, nacket, etc

Single efter dooble-letter vowel (an whan the ruit word haes final E.)

eydent, spailock, glaikit, gypit, waled (frae *gype, wale*), etc

In words like *media, hero* an *radio*, the single follaein consonant suggests the soond o the precedin vowel an the'r nae need ti chyngie ti e.g.: *meidia, heiro* an *raidio*. Conversely, in words like *pedal, medal, herald* an *makar* the opposite effect is suggestit bi the A efter the follaein consonant, an the'r nae need ti uise spellins like *peddal, meddal* an *makkar*. In words like *naitur*, houe'er, whaur the characteristic Scots pronunciation kythes as weel in the derived form *naitural*, the spellin wi AI is better nor e.g.: *natur, natural*.

D4.2. Final

a) Maist consonants is single efter baith single an dooble letter vowels:

din, dam, dab, gab, drap, braid, raik, hait, tuim, etc

SSD leets the puckle kenspeckle exceptions, e.g.: *redd, yett*.

b) Monosyllabic words stertin wi single-letter vowels haes dooble consonants (*ebb, add, err*).

c) Final K, F an L is uisualle:

Dooble efter single letter vowel (CK for dooble K)

lick, mull, guff, feck, nyaff, etc

Single efter dooble-letter vowel

gowk, fuil, loaf, howf, hail, etc

SSD uises single final K efter single-letter vowels in a wheen kenspeckle words - e.g.: *tak, mak, shak, brak, strik* - maistlie wi English cognates at ends in -E.

SSD uises single final L ti shaw the soond o U in e.g.: *pul, bul*. This method disna work weel wi present participles gin the rule ti dooble consonants is follaed ti gie *pullin* an *bullin*, as the phonological disteinction frae English braks down syne. (Some writes *puhl, buhl*, and e'en *puhsh* ti get roond this, but the Comatee thocht that thir spellins leuks orra.)

d) Final S an Z is maistlie

Dooble efter single letter vowel

gless, fess, bass, boss, etc.

Single efter dooble letter vowel

hoose, moose, lowse, ruise, faize, wheeze, etc.

Final V is follaed by E - e.g.: *neive, pruve* - except for *div* an *hiv*.

D5. Parteicular Consonants.

D5.1. CH an J

Onie possible confuision atween CH as in *loch* an CH as in *cheil* can be evytit bi takkin tent o the fact at CH as in *loch* niver occurs at the beginnin o words. The Comatee recommends at the twa soonds be sindered as follaes:

CH as in *cheil* is spelt CH at the beginnin o words an TCH ithergates (except efter R, e.g.: *airch, mairch*), sae *cheil, chap, chaumer*, but *clatch, match, wratch, pootch*.

CH as in *loch* is spelt CH, sae *loch, trauchle, dreich, hauch, houch, etc.*

The pronunciation o CH as in *loch* is reinforced bi uisin OU an EI raither nor OO an EE afore it, sae *houch* an *wheich* raither nor SSD *hooch* an *wheech* at nicht suggest rhymes wi Eng. words like *hooch* an *screech*. (See OU/OO an EI/EE ablo).

The J soond is spelt J at the beginnin o words, an uisualle DGE ithergates, sae *jeelie, radge*.

In some words, "j" an "ch" (as in *cheese*) soonds arises whan a D or T is follaed bi a "y" soond. In non-regional writin, thae words is better spelt wi T an D, sae *tyauve, deuk, teuch*, raither nor *chauve, jeuk, cheuch*.

D5.2. GH

It is suggestit at the uiss o GH for the soond o CH as in *loch* - e.g.: *haugh, claught (SSD)* - is

unnecessar, an ower prone ti be pronounced silent bi analogy wi English; an at CH shuid be uised insteid sae, *hauch*, *claucht*.

Silent GH is better left oot in English cognates like *tho*, *throu*, an *delyte*. Houaniver, In words like *ghaist* an *ghoul*, whaur the G is soondit, the fameiliar H aids recognisabeility. The form *delicht*, gien in *SSD* as the Scots form o Eng. *delight*, is a fause analogy an isna recommendit.

D5.3. ND

The ND consonant combination becomes N in monie by-leids o modren Scots, but no in ithers. Sae e.g.: North East *fin*, *hunner* but Wast Fife *finnd*, *hunder*.

This quaisten is bund up wi the quaisten o OU or OO. Gin baith ND an OU is retained in words like *sound*, *round*, etc. the'r naething syne ti indicate the Scots pronunciation o the OU in thae words as fornent English. (For the different views on whether this maiters, see OU/OO ablo). The follaein is some suggestions at haes been made:

1. Retain ND in writin (sae Stylesheet) e.g.: *lend*, *staund*, *freind*, *sound*, *round*, *thousand*, etc. (Or uisin OO e.g.: *roond*, *soond*, *thoosand*, ti evyte possible confuision wi the soonds o the English cognates.)
2. Leave oot the D, e.g.: *len*, *staun*, *thousan*, *frein*, *haun*, *roun*, *soun*, *stoun*, *grun*. (or: *roon*, *soon*, *stoon*, etc.)
3. Retain ND only in words whaur it kythes in derived forms, sae *len*, *staun*, *thousan*, *frein* but *haund*, *round*, *sound*, *stound*, *grund* (RWS). Houaniver, this is subjective-kynd an hard ti apply consistently.
4. Leave oot the D in ruit forms an pit it in in derived forms whaur needit - e.g.: *soun*, *roun*, but *soundit*, *roundit*.
5. Relate ti the abuin is the quaisten o whether N shuid be doobelt ti suggest the Scots pronunciations o words like *finnd*, *blinnd* an *winnd* (up a clock).

The Comatee recommends uisin ND, as in 1 abuin - that is, retainin the D, an uisin OO rather nor OU in words like *soond* ti evyte confuision wi English cognates - on the principle at it's easier for thaim at hips the D in spaek ti read, for ensample, *soond* an say "soon" nor it is for thaim at retains it ti read *soun* or *soon* an say "soond". In ither words, the spellins wi ND is thocht ti be mair neutral, an the spellins wi OO - in words wi English cognates in OU - ti be clearer.

In dialect or ither creative screivin, the Comatee recognises at the "d"s will mair afen be hippit, but recommends at -oo- digraphs be uised whaur necessar ti mak siccar the soond is unambiguous.

Vowels.

The spellin o vowel soonds is whaur the feck o the phonological differs atween Scots an Scottish Staandard English kythes, an the digraphs - especially the chyce atween OU an OO, an ti a lesser extent atween EE an EI an final AW, A an AA - is weel kent problems in the spellin o Scots. Different approaches haes teckelt the problems in different weys.

The approach taen here is firstly ti pit forrit rules o thoum at will gie a hie degree o

compatibeility wi *SSD*; an saicontlie, ti leuk at weys at sic rules micht be refined an/or raxt ayont the purposes o lexicography. At the first level this will draw tent til an reinforce the braid types o spellins uised in *SSD*, as weel as suggestin criteria for reddin up inconsistencies. At the saicont level, it will gie furder rules o thom for fowk leukin for mair speceific guidelines - e.g.: hou ti wale amang the variants gien i the dictionar - for the sindrie purposes o writin soond-orientatit representations o Scots (poetry, dialect, drama) on the ae haund, or a non-regional staandard on the ither.

For this purpose, vowel digraphs is allocatit accordin ti combinations o the follaein criteria:

- a) Whether thay occur ineitially, medially or finally in a word.
- b) Correspondences wi English cognates
- c) Phonology an Diaphonology
- d) Follaein consonants.

D6. AI/AE/A-E

1. *SSD* practice is maistlie as follaes:

AI ineitial an medial, an AE mainly final - *ain, airt, hain, pairt, strae, brae, thae*, etc

A-E for words wi English O-(M/N)-E - e.g.: *bane, stane, hame*.

A feow ither words haes A-E or medial AE, e.g.: *lave, wale, faem*.

2. It is uissfu ti uise AE medially for the regional variants o words wi EA in the English cognates, like *aet, maet*.

D7. AU/AW/AA

1. *SSD* practice is maistlie:

AU iniitial (*auld, aucht*) except *awn* an:

derived words, e.g.: *awfu* (frae *awe*), *aabodie* (*SSD a'bodie* - see (2) ablo.)
Shewa W, e.g.: *awauk, awaur*.

AU medial (e.g.: *faut, haud*) wi exceptions as *SSD* (*bawd, bawsant*, etc.)

2. Recommends for a Non-Regional Orthography.

In the final poseition, *SSD* gies variants in -A, -AA an -AW for maist words, e.g.: *ca, caa, caw* an *call*. For dialect writin, the spellins AA an AW shaws local pronunciation - e.g.: *baw* an *caw* (Central) fornent *baa* an *caa* (North East). For a non-regional staandard, it is recommendit at final -AW an -AA be allocatit as follaes:

-AW in characteristically Scots words, e.g.: *caw* (in sense o drive), *braw, jaw* (wave).

-AW for English -AW an -OW, e.g.: *draw, shaw, craw*

-AA for English (an aulder Scots) -ALL, e.g.: *haa, faa, caa* (call), *aa* (raither nor *SSD a'*)

Allocatin the spellin in this wey evytes the impression o dialect pronunciations suggestit bi the uiss o aither AW or AA aaway (see General Approach abuin).

Thare wis a lot o debate amang the Comatee gin the *-aa* digraph wisna mibbie unnecessary; but the balance o opeinion fell oot at sinderin cognates o *-OW* words an *-ALL* words in English wis a uissfu key ti English-thirlt readers, an a wyce recommend o the oreiginal *Stylesheet*, evytin twa-three orra-leukin homographs in the frequent words *aa* an *haa* asweel, whaur *aw* an *haw* haes ither uisses as exclamations.

A when words - e.g.: *na, wha, twa, ava* an *awa* - ends in a single A.

D8. Final -A, -AE an -U

As wi final AW an AA, variation in final *-A* an *-AE* serrs, in words like *canna/cannae* an *folla/follae*, ti shaw the pronounciation o sindrie dialects. For non-regional spellin, houeever, it is recommendit at the suffix *-NA* be used in negative words like *canna, winna*, etc; an at the rest - maistlie correspondin ti English cognates endin in *-OW* - be spelt wi *-AE*, sae *follae, windae, weidae*, etc.

In non-regional writin the suffix correspondin ti English *-FUL* shuid be spelt *-FU*, sae *awfu, mensefu, feckfu, uissfu*, etc. (Mair conseistent nor *SSD*'s *mensefu, feckfu* but *wunnerfae, yuisfae*, etc.)

D9. EE/EI/IE

1. The follaein wad seem ti be rules o thoum at wad gie braid compatibeility wi *SSD/CESD*:

SSD uses *EE* as the defaut spellin, wi *EI* only in words whaur that spellin is juidget ti be weel-estaiblisht. This retains the popular spellin o monie kenspeckle words, but gies rise ti certain perceived inconsistencies - e.g.: *dreich* fornent *wheech*. The follaein seeks ti redd up some o thir bi conformin thaim ti rules foondit on the *SSD*'s general practice.

EI inietial an medial in certain words (*deil, eik, eild, reid*, etc.) an certain types o word, e.g.:

afore R - e.g.: *speir, sweir, neir* (= Eng. *kidney*)

afore CH (as in *loch*) - e.g.: *dreich, heich, wheich*

afore ST - e.g.: *neist, sneist*

for English *EA* whan pronouced "e" in English an "ee" in Scots, e.g.: *heid, deif, deid, breid, breist, leid*.

IE medial: afore V - e.g.: *nieve, scribe, stieve*

in a when ither words, e.g.: *bield, chiel, bien, bonspiel, fiere, shielin*

IE Final unstressed - e.g.: *bittie, mannie, bonnie, cannie* (but see Final *-ie* ablo).

SSD uses *EE* maist aa ither wey, wi *EA* in a when kenspeckle words like *gean, beadle, leal*, an as a variant in a feow ithers.

2. Houaniver, the Comatee thocht at it wad be wyce ti hae a defaut Scots digraph *EI* an recommends the extension o its uiss ayont that in *SSD* as follaes:

a) *EI* inietial an medial for English *I* whaur tradeitionally pronouced "ee" in Scots but "i" in English, e.g.: *eidiot, eimage, feinish, speirit, tradeition, steik, seik, weik*

(for Eng. *stitch, sick, wick*).

(Anither wey o indicatin the "ee" soond in sic words wad be ti uise an acute diacritic ower the I - e.g.: *tradition* - as Lorimer dis in his translation o the New Testament. Amang the Comatee, George Philp wis keen on this principle. The lave didna think it wis wyce, or awfu likely ti be taen up.)

b) EI ineitial an medial in aa characteristically Scots words, e.g.: *neip, pleip, reik, steik* (for baith Eng *stitch* an i the sense o shut), includin whaur SSD haes IE afore V, an L e.g.: *screive, beild* etc.

The Comatee recommends EE, EA an IE in the follaein:

a) In identical English cognates - *meet, street, feet, beer, green; year, hear, spear, lean; grief, field*, etc.

b) In a few words wi gey establisht spellins, especially anes common in Scottish Standard English - e.g.: *gean, beadle, leal, leet, bien, grieve*. (*Bien* is leetit baith as *bein* an *bien* in sindrie (English) dictionaries, but gin *bein* is uised for this, evytance o the obvious homograph leads some screivers ti pit doun *be-in* for Eng. *being*, at seems a bit o a bourach. The Comatee recommends *bien* for *pleasant*, *bein* for *being*.)

c) EE final stressed - *wee, dree, gree, ee*, wi kenspeckle exceptions - e.g.: *gie, hie*.

d) EE for English E an EE in close cognates - e.g.: *weet, weel, jeelie, eerant, atween, seven* - aids readabeility.

The nummer o words affectit bi the differ atween the Comatee's recommendation on EI an SSD's general practice isna sae muckle whan we'r spaekin aboot juist thae anes whaur the *-ei-* appears in a ruit form. It turns oot on analysis at the feck o chynge wad be ti thae words whaur a Latin etymology wad be tint gin whit wad be an *-i-* in the English cognate wad be rendert as a dooble *-ee-*. Ti preserr the etymology an the recognition factor, *-ei-* wis conseedered superior.

Ither raasons for a systematic chynge ti a rule-based approach wis at this bit o Scots spellin wad be aesier lairned this wey, an lairned in a wey at merks for lairners the provenance - Scots or English - o the words thay'r lairnin, in an area o spellin kittlesome in English tae.

D10. Final -ie

SSD uises *-ie* finally for the unstressed "ee" soond in baith close English cognate an unique Scots words, sae *mannie, bonnie, pairtie, jeelie, brawlie*, etc. This gies rise ti the follaein practical considerations:

1. Gif *-ie* is uised for aa the abuin types o words, this leaves twa options for the traetment o identical English cognates:

a) Chynge thaim ti follae the abuin principle - sae *analogie, etymologie, bellie, orthographie*, etc. This leads ti unfameiliar spellins o kenspeckle words, an in some views tends ti mak thaim leuk mair langer an aulder-farrant. (Mair sae for lang words wi ither alterations, siclike as *incomprehensibeilitie*.)

b) Leave thaim wi the English spellin. This laeds til a non-homogeneous system, whaur the identical English cognates is spelt wi -Y, e.g.: *analogy*, *orthography*, *belly* - but aathing else wi -ie, e.g.: *monie*, *onie*, *onlie*, *naiturallie*, *jeelie*. It means asweel at whether a word ends in -ie or -Y will depend entirely on whether it haes ti be chynged frae the English - e.g.: *only* but *onie*, *belly* but *jeelie*.

Thae problems kythes maistlie in expository prose, whaur it's necessar ti mell shared an unique vocabular - includin lang Latinate words. It disna kythe sae muckle in the tradeitional uisses o Scots - dialect an poetry - nor in dictionars an word-leets, whaur maist identical English cognates isna leetit, an the quaisten o homogenous orthography isna sae important. It is possible, than, at the practice o uisin final -ie aaway will encourage the tradeitional uisses an uptaks o Scots - dialect, poetry, short words - an be a haudback ti the development o expository registers.

Suggestions at haes been made is as follaes:

1. Sinderin on Grammatical Foonds.

-ie only for diminutives, e.g.:

mannie, *lassie*, but *bonny*, *canny*, *ony*, *jeely*, *pairty*, *naiturally*, *belly*, *analogy*, *orthography*.

-ie also in adjectives

mannie, *lassie*, *bonnie*, *cannie*, *onie*, but *naiturally*, *jeely*, *pairty*, *belly*, *analogy*, *orthography*

-ie also in adverbs (the Stylesheet recommend).

mannie, *lassie*, *bonnie*, *cannie*, *onie*, *naiturallie* but *jeely*, *pairty*, *belly*, *analogy*, *orthography*

2. Sinderin Foondit on Variance frae English.

-ie for unique Scots words, but Y in aa English cognates, close or identical, e.g.:

mannie, *lassie*, *bonnie*, *cannie*, but *ony*, *jeely*, *pairty*, *naiturally*, *belly*, *analogy*, *orthography*

-ie for unique Scots words an altered cognates, but leave Y in identical cognates.

mannie, *lassie*, *bonnie*, *cannie*, *onie*, *jeelie*, *pairtie*, *naiturallie*, but *belly*, *analogy*, *morally*

3. Sinderin on Stress Foond.

-ie unstresst (SSD, RWS)

mannie, *lassie*, *bonnie*, *cannie*, *jeelie*, *pairtie*, *naiturallie*, *bellie*, *analogie*, *orthographie*

-ie stresst (Scotscrieve)

prie, *brie*, *grie* but *bonny*, *canny*, *pairty*, etc.

The Comatee recommends at final -ie be uised for the unstressed final "ee" soond in aa words or forms o words unique til or caractereistic o Scots, includin verbs (*cairie*),

nouns (*mannie*), adjectives (*bonnie*) an adverbs (*aefauldlie*), as in 1 (b) *abuin*.

Final *-ie* is no recommendit in word endins siclike as *-ity*, *-ology*, *-ography*, etc. nor in identical English cognates siclike as *funny*, *silly*.

D11. OO/OU

SSD uses OO as the defaut spellin, wi OU only in words whaur that spellin is juidded ti be weel-establisht. This gies rise ti certain perceived inconsistencies - e.g.: *dour* fornent *coor*. The follaein seeks ti redd up some o thir bi conformin thaim ti rules foondit on the SSD's general practice.

1. Rules o Thaum for Braid Compatibeility wi SSD/CESD.

a) OU medial in certain kenspeckle words (*douce*, *rouse*, *tousie*, etc.) an certain types o word, e.g.:

afore R - e.g.: *stour*, *dour*, *cour*, *bourach*

afore CH (as in *loch*) - e.g.: *souch*, *houch*, *behouch* (raither nor SSD *hooch*, *behooch*)

afore TH - e.g.: *couthie*, *drouth*, *fouth*

b) OU for: English U, e.g.: *joug*, *thoum*, *douk*, *souk*
English final -ULL, e.g.: *pou*, *fou*

2. Non-Regional Recommends: Rules o Thaum for Extendin Uiss o OU.

The feck o the comatee grees at the tradeitional Scots digraph OU shuid or cuid be extendit ayont it's relatively nerrae scowth in SSD, but thare is differs o emphasis in hou faur this shuid be duin. The follaein criteria reflects thir differs o emphasis in hou faur OU shuid be uised:

1. Whaur confuision wi English spellins is unlikely, e.g.:

a) OU aaway, except uise OO whaur the English cognate haes OU pronounced "ow" (e.g.: *hoose*, *soond*, *oot*, etc.) This evytes onie confuision ower pronunciation, an hauds the follaein sub-sinderins o word types.

Words athoot obvious English cognates, e.g.: *oubit*, *ourie*, *loun*, *crouse*, *fouter*

For OW in English cognates, e.g.: *doun*, *droun*, *toun*, *cou*

Final generally, e.g.: *hou*, *nou*, *cou*, *dou*, *fou*

b) OU whaur ither chynge ti the English cognate can evyte confuision, e.g.:

Whaur English haes a consonant at Scots haesna, e.g.: *dout*, *dou* (cp. *pou*, *fou*).

Whaur D can be hippit efter N, e.g.: *soun*, *roun*, *foun*

Hippin silent E efter final S, or dooblin the S, e.g.: *hous/houss*, *mous/mouss*

2. OU aaway, relyin on fameiliarity wi the system ti evyte confuision, wi *out*, *our*, *about*, an possibly e.g.: *house*, *mouse*, *sound*, *round*, spelt the same as English but pronounced wi an "oo" soond.

This cuid be representit as three classes o words - anes at maist fowk wad spell wi OO (*oot, about, accoont*, etc.); anes at monie fowk wad spell wi OU (*loun, down*, etc); an a third category - maistlie afore -N(D) an S(E) - at the'r mair switherin ower, e.g.: *hoose/hous/house/houss; soond/soun*, etc.

The orthography used in this report, reflectin majority opeinion on the Comatee, haes OO for aa English cognates in OU (wi the single exception o *dout*) retainin the -ND an -SE in words like *soond* an *hoose*; an uises OU aa ither wey - e.g.: *loun, down, cou*, etc.

D12. UI/EU/U-E

This spellin haes aften been uised arbitrarily, whiles as an equeivalent spellin o an "oo" or "u" soond. Houaniver, for non-regional writin it haes valuable diaphonemic potential.

The UI digraph represents an ooriginal Middle English "o" soond at first becam a different soond (a bittie like German ö) in Scots, an than becam an "oo" soond in English. Sae words spelt wi OO in English aften haes Scots cognates wi UI, e.g.: *schuil, muin, puir*. This "ö" soond remained in certain conservative Scots dialects (cp: Shetlandic). In ither by-leids it developed a different soond. In the Central belt it's maistlie pronounced "ai" whan lang an "i" whan short - sae *puir* an *muin* is sayed "pair" an "min". In the North East, it's pronounced "ee", giein "peer" an "meen".

Table o Pronunciations o Oreiginal UI /ø/ Phoneme i Typical Scots Dialect Types.

	Scots e.g.:	AI/I type Dialect	Ü/Ö type (Shetlandic)	EE type (NE)
Lang	<i>puir, ruise</i>	"pair", "raize"	"pör", "röze"	"peer", "reeze"
Short	<i>buit, muin</i>	"bit", "min"	"böt", "mön"	"beet", "meen"

SSD maistlie reflects the lowss uiss o the UI digraph in Scots in general, giein baith uissfu (*tuim, buit*) an less uissfu (*wuid, cuit*) ensamples. Houaniver, for non-regional writin especially, it is recommendit at this spellin be uised only for words wi the regional pronunciation variants descryved abuin - aften correspondin ti an "oo" soond i the English cognate - an that ither spellins be uised for words at disna hae thae variants. Spellin aa the appropriate words wi UI, rather nor wi thair regional pronuncins o "ai", "i", or "ee", means at fowk frae aa ower Scotland will can read written Scots wi thair ain accent, athoot haein the impression o readin some ither bodie's dialect.

A uissfu rule o thoum is at words spelt wi UI shuid saitisfee at laest three oot o fower o the follaein criteria (*buit* an *puir* as ensamples).

An "ö" or "ü" soond in conservative dialects (Sooth, Perthshire, Shetlandic) - "böt", "pör".

An "oo" or "u" soond i the English cognate - "boot", "poor".

An "ee" soond i the NE - "beet", "peer".

An "ai" or "i" soond in Central - "bit", "pair".

1. A short leet o sic words is:

guid, bluid, fluid, fuid, stuid, luif, fuil, schuil, tuim, duin, muin, abuin, spuin, shuin, nuin, suin, shuin, fluir, puir, muir, shuir, ruise, uise, uiss, muisic, juist, buit, suit (Eng. *soot*), *luit* (past tense o *lat*), *tuith*.

Merk the common disteinction atween the spellins o *uise* (variously sayed "yaize", "eeze", "öze") for the verb, an *uiss* ("yiss", "eese", "öss") for the noun.

2. Afore K an CH (as in *loch*) the oreiginal soond teuk a differin gate, an becam the soond uisualle spelt EU - again wi different pronunciations in sindrie by-leids. (The spreid o soonds covered is different: sae *heuk* micht be pronounced as *hyuk*, *hook*, *hyook*, or *huk*.) Sae it is recommendit at EU raither nor UI be uised afore K an CH, sae:

teuk, leuk, beuk, neuk, deuk, sheuk, sheuch, leuch, eneuch, teuch, heuch, etc.

3. Some ither words at tends ti be spelt wi UI disna hae the expectit dialect variants in modren Scots spaek, an is better spelt wi ither spellins:

a) *fit* (foot) an *wid* (wood) is pronounced wi an "i" soond maist aaway, an better sae spelt.

b) A few words wi an "oo" soond - aften cognates o English words in O-E - at disna hae the dialect variants o the UI phoneme is better spelt U-E, sae *dule*, *muve*, *pruve*, *hure*.

c) For words wi a "u" soond the English spellin is best uised - e.g.: *love*, *glove*, *cover*.

d) *Cuid* an *shuid*, tho thay dinna strictly spaekin saitisfee the criteria identifee'd for the UI phoneme, is sae spelt bi defaut o onie ither spellin bein saitisfactory.

4. In words like *guide*, *guise*, an *quine*, the U is associate wi the precedin consonant raither nor the follaein I, sae the'r nae inconsistency.

5. Note: The UI spellin is whiles popularly perceived as the characteristic front "oo" soond (a bittie like German *ü* in *über*; *ue* in French *rue*; [y] in phonetic script efter Scandinavian *y* in e.g.: Swedish *nyckel*) at kythes in Wast Central Scots especially. In fact, this soond is uised in that dialect in words at haesna the UI spellin (oreiginal "ö" phoneme) - like *true*, *blue*, etc - an a pronunciation o words like *muin* an *puir* as "mün" an "pür" is actually the English forms o the words - *moon* an *poor* - sayed wi a Wast Central accent. The pronunciations o the Scots forms *muin* an *puir* in Central Scots is "min" an "pair".

6. Tho the UI soond kythes at the ends o words, it's no representit as sic in writin. Sae, tho the words *dae* (Eng. *do*), *tae* (Adverb - Eng. *too*) an *shae* (Eng. *shoe*) haes the same regional variants as words like *guid* an *puir*, the -AE spellin (representin the pronunciation o Central dialects) is nou established for thir words. Houaniver, the UI spellin whiles reappears in derived forms - sae *shuin* (plural o *shae*) an *duin* (past participle o *dae*).

D13. OW/OWE

SSD maistlie uises OW inietial an medial (e.g.: *ower*, *nowt*), OWE final (e.g.: *cowe*, *howe*), but wi certain exceptions, siclike as *bow* (for baith English *bow* - an arrae - an *buoy*).

The type o orthography commendit bi the Comatee wad mak this uiss o final -OWE mair regular, uisin *bowe* raither nor *bow* for baith English *bow* (an arrae) an *buoy* (Scots for Eng. *bow down* is o coorse *bou*). Ae exception is the auxiliary verb *dow* (whaurbyes SSD uises the spellin *dowe* for baith this verb an for *dowe* in the sense o *wither*.)

D14. Internal Y/Y-E/I-E

SSD uises whiles Y-E, whiles I-E, e.g.: *syne*, *hyne*, *blybe*, etc. but *wime*, *bile*, *blide*, etc.

athoot onie obvious rulin criterion.

1. Alternative approaches at haes been proponed is:

- a) Sinder I an Y phonologically, uisin Y for the "shorter" soond - "ey" as in *gey* - an I-E for the "langer" soond - "ay" as in *kye*. This wad gie: e.g.: *five*, *drive* but *tyme*, *wyfe*, *mynd*, *byde*, *syne*, *synd*.

Problems wi this is at it leads ti different spellins o kenspeckle words at's sayed the same in Scots an Scottish English (as fornent RP); at some common words wi the "kye" soond haes fameiliar spellins in Y - e.g.: *byre*, *kythe* -; an at the'r differs in the wey some o thae words (includin *byre* an *wey/wye*) is pronounced in sindrie by-leids.

- b) Keep I-E in identical English cognates, but uise Y in unique Scots words. This wad gie e.g.: *five*, *drive*, *time*, *wife*, *mind*, but *syne*, *synd*, an aither *bide* or *byde* dependin on hou faur it wis regairdit as caractereistically Scots in meanin raither nor wi reference ti Eng. *abide*.

The ae problem wi this is at it laeds ti (slicht) non-homogeneity, at shaws wi the problem o hou ti spell *bide*.

- c) Uise Y aaway - *tyme*, *wyfe*, *fyre*, *tyne*, *pynt*, *byde*, etc. This is easy ti apply, but laeds ti unfameiliar spellins o monie kenspeckle words.

In onie o the abuin, Y is uised afore consonant clusters an digraphs in unique Scots words - e.g.: *synd*, *wynd*, *kythe*.

Uisin Y regularly for English OI - e.g.: *pynt*, *jyne*, etc - wad be in kilter wi aa the abuin suggestions.

2. The Comatee concludit at internal Y be uised for the soond in "gey" in the follaein circumstances:

- a) **In words unique til or caractereistic o Scots raither nor English, e.g.: *wynd*, *syne*, *tyne*, *tyke*.**

- b) **Whaur the word haes a form or connotation peculiar ti Scots, e.g.: *wyfe*, *byde*, *fyle* (Eng. *defile*); *jyne*, *pynt* (for OI in Eng. *join*, *point*); *dyke*.**

- c) **Whaur the want o a follaein -E in the ruit word maks an I spellin illogical, e.g.: *mynd*, *kynd*, *rynd*.**

D15 Single Vowels.

The single vowels A, E, I, O an U is pronounced as in Scottish English *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*, *putt*, an generally thay gie nae problem. Some o the when difficulties at dis kythe is:

1. a) I or U in words like *will*, *till*
- b) O or OA in words like *on*, *stop*

Baith thae chyces is relate ti aesthetics (see abuin) the "Ah wull go oan tull Ah stoap" kind o

Scots bein identified wi the phonetics o urban colloquial spaek. It is suggestit at baith the U in words like *wul*, etc; an the OA in words like *oan*, etc. be confined ti phonetic types o writin - dialogue, drama, verse, an prose thirlt ti thir - an at forms wi I an O - *will*, *till*, *on*, *shop* - be uised for non-regional writin. (See asweel Indeterminate Vowels ablo.)

2. Allocation o E or AI i words like *pairt/pert*, *gaither/gether*, *cairie/kerrie*

The problem here is at some words haes baith pronunciations in sindrie by-leids, an ither words at disna seem ti hae sic variants is spelt wi AI bi analogy.

It is suggestit at AI or E be uised accordin ti pronunciation ti merk a sinderin frae the English cognate in words whaur the English cognates haes A - or an "a" soond - (e.g.: *airm*, *faither*, *ferm*, *hert*) but at the E be retained in maist English cognates like *leg*, *term*, *exercise* (raither nor *laig*, *tairm*, *aixercise*). A kenspeckle exception is *saicont*.

D16. Indeterminate Vowels.

1. The indeterminate vowel (Shewa) at kythes in unstresst syllables i monie words - e.g.: in the saicont syllable o *constant*, *efter*, *pittin*, *bannock*, *naitur*, an the first syllable o e.g.: *afore* an *ahint* - canna be representit bi onie ae letter better nor onie ither, an sae the fameiliar vowel letters is best retained i the spellin o sic words (raither nor e.g.: *constint*, *eftir*, *bannick*, *naitir*) ti aid readabeility an preserr the connection wi cognate an derived forms (sae *naitur*, *naitural* raither nor *naitir*, *naitril*, etc.)

2. Short, frequently uised words, like prepositions an pronouns, tends ti tak on an indeterminate vowel whan uised unemphatically in spaek - sae e.g.: "fer" (*for*), "bit" (*but*) etc. For readabeility it is best ti leave thae words wi thair emphatic spellins - *for*, *but*, etc - as is duin in onie ither written language.

The Comatee considered at gaun bi monie screivers' practice, some o the maist frequent words - maistlie pronouns - shuid allou variance for non-emphatic forms, an thir is leetit abuin.

Wi *for*, Wast o Scotland an Aiberdeen spaek wad tend ti gie *fur*, an Dundee *fer*, an Aest an Central Scotland (mibbie) *fir*. This wis considered eneuch o a soss as ti be better forleit: the Comatee recommends bydin wi *for*.

3. The'r a tendency for vowels - uisualle I an A - ti be pronounced as "u" in various dialects o Scots. Sae in some by-leids, *wind* is sayed "wun", whaurby in ithers it's sayed "winnd", "win", or e'en "ween". Seimilarly, in Aiberdeen the A vowel is aften sayed like "u", e.g.: "grunnie" (*grannie*) an "lumpies" (*lampies* - "new lumpies for aal"). Emphasisin the "u" soond in thae words tends ti gie the leid a dialect appearance at micht mak it less accessible ti fowk at disna spaek that wey. For non-regional spellin, the kenspeckle vowels in words like *lamp* an *wind* is best retained.

4. Another vowel soond at micht be caad indeterminate is the ane kent as Aitken's vowel. In Scots, an aften in Scottish English, the vowel in words like *never* an *next* is different baith frae the vowel in *sever* an *vexed*, an frae the vowel in *river* an *mixed*. Whether/Whither it is mensefu ti indicate this vowel in Scots words bi spellins like *iver* an *nixt* is a moot pynt in Scots spellin: in the Shortleet tables abuin the Comatee saw fit ti recommend ane or twa sic instances. Gaun ayont thaim rins the risk o haein English-thirlt readers bein fair swickit hou ti pronounce sic words at aa.

Aa the abuin pynts relates ti a mair neutral non-regional orthography. In dialogue an siclike, wyce representation o indeterminate vowels serrs ti shaw the nuances o spaek.

D17. Verb Endins

The endins o waek verbs - that is, verbs at forms thair past tenses bi endins (like *kep*, *keppit*) raither nor internal chynghes (like *greet*, *grat*) - is maistlie as follaes:

1. In modren spaek, only verbs endin in -P, -T, -K, -B, -D, an G haes the endin -IT, e.g.: *keppit*, *howkit*, *flittit*, *biggit*, *rubbit*, *luggit*, etc. This is true asweel whaur the present tense haes thae letters follaed bi E - e.g.: *hatit*, *gypit*, *rakit*, *fadit* - except -GE, whaur the G haes a different ("j") soond - sae *caged*, *paged*, *raged*.
2. In tradeitional Scots gremmar, Latinate verbs endin in -TE disna add naething i the past participle, e.g.: past tense "I appreciatit that", but past participle: "that wad be appreciate." This uiss is nou auld farrant, an maistlie characteristic o leiterary prose - e.g.: Lorimer).
3. Verbs endin in -F, -SS, -EN, -L, -SH, -TCH, -CH, an sometimes -R, maistlie haes the endin -T, e.g.: *fasht*, *kent*, *raivelt*, *birlt*, *speirt*, *pootcht*, *brocht*. In maist cases, a dooble consonant is made single afore the T, e.g.: *coft*, *past*, *telt* (but *killt*).
4. Verbs endin in -LE taks the endin -ELT, sae *ettelt*, *hirpelt*.
5. Verbs endin in an unstresst "ee" soond uisualle taks the -T endin, sae *worrit*, *mairiet*.
6. Ithers (includin verbs endin in -SE, whaur the S uisualle haes a "z" soond) maistlie haes endins in -ED, e.g.: *daured*, *luved*, *screived*, *kaimed*, *hained*, *cawed*, *rowed*, *cryed*, *poued*, *pree'd*, *raged*, *kythed*, *jaloused*, *lowsed*, *lowssed*, *supposed*, etc. A kenspeckle exception is *fremmit* (at haes a variant *fremd*.)
7. Verbs endin in -EE hips the E frae the -ED endin an replaces it bi an apostrophe, e.g.: *gree'd*, *dree'd*, etc.

In general, it's best ti uise pronunciation as a guide raither nor eik the -IT endin ti verbs like *kythit*, *jalousit*, *tramlit*, *followit*, *luvit*, etc. (better *kythed*, *jaloused*, *trampelt*, *follaed*, *loved*).

The disteinction atween present participles in -AN an verbal nouns in -IN, as recommendit i the *Scots Style Sheet*, isna uisualle favoured nouadays; but a general disteinction shuid be made atween present participles endin in -IN - e.g.: *pittin*, *lattin*, *gettin* - an past participles in -(E)N, e.g.: *pitten*, *latten*, *gotten*, *blawn*, *faan*, *worn* (The E hippit efter R, AA an AW).

D18. Representation o Correspondences wi English Cognates.

The follaein tables gies rules o thoom for spellin certain types o words whaur the soonds is significantly different in Scots bi Scottish English.

D18.1. Consonant an Consonant/Vowel Correspondences.

English	Pron.	E.g..	Scots	Pron.	E.g..
MB	mb	<i>number, chamber, rumble</i>	M(M)	m	<i>nummer, chaumer, rummle.</i>
A/IKE	ai/y	<i>make, take, strike</i>	A/IK	a/i	<i>mak, tak, strik</i>
GH	-	<i>bright, fight, tough</i>	CH	kh	<i>bricht, fecht, teuch</i>

GH	-	<i>though, through, delight</i>	-	-	<i>tho, throu, delyte</i>
-ALL	awl	<i>fall, hall, ball, all</i>	-A(A)	a(w)	<i>faa, haa, baa, aa</i>
AL	al	<i>false, salt, scald</i>	AU	a(w)	<i>fause, saut, scaud</i>
AL	a	<i>calf, half, calm, walk</i>	AU	a(w)	<i>cauf, hauf, caum</i> ¹
BE-	be	<i>because, between, before</i>	A-	a	<i>(a)cause, atween, afore</i>
OL	ol	<i>bolster, gold, stolen</i>	OW	ow	<i>bowster, gowd, stowen</i>
-ULL	ool	<i>full, pull</i>	OU	oo	<i>fou, pou</i>
-UL	ool	<i>useful, awful, helpful</i>	-U	a/ai/oo	<i>uissfu, awfu, helpfu</i>

¹ But: *walk, talk*.

D18.2. Vowel Correspondences

English	Pron	E.g.	Scots	Typ. Pron	E.g.
A	a	<i>arm, father, matter</i>	AI	ai	<i>airm, faither, maiter</i>
A	a	<i>brass, glass, fast</i>	E	e	<i>bress, gless, fest</i>
E	e	<i>well, wet, errand</i>	EE	ee	<i>weel, weet, eerant</i>
EA	ee	<i>real, reap, meat, eat</i>	AE	ee/ai	<i>rael, raep, maet, aet</i>
EA	e	<i>deaf, head, bread</i>	EI	ee	<i>deif, heid, breid</i>
I	i	<i>idiot, spirit, sick</i>	EI	ee	<i>eidiot, speirit, seik</i>
O	o	<i>drop, soft, throng</i>	A	a	<i>drap, saft, thrang</i>
O-E	oh	<i>stone, home, bone</i>	A-E	ai	<i>stane, hame, bane</i>
O-E	oa/oo	<i>whore, move, prove</i>	U-E	oo	<i>hure, muve, pruve</i>
OI	oi	<i>point, join, appoint</i>	Y(-E)	ey	<i>pynt, jyne, appynt</i>
OL	ol	<i>old, fold, cold</i>	AUL	a(w)	<i>auld, fauld, cauld</i>
OO	oo	<i>moon, roof, poor</i>	UI	ai/i/ee/ö	<i>muin, ruif, puir</i>
OOK	oo	<i>look, took, nook</i>	EUK	yoo	<i>leuk, teuk, neuk</i>
OU	ow	<i>our, house, sound</i>	OO	oo	<i>oor, hoose, soond</i>
-OW	oo	<i>follow, widow, window</i>	-AE	ë/ai	<i>follae, weidae, windae</i>
-OW	oh	<i>crow, show, sow, row</i>	-AW	a/aw	<i>craw, shaw, saw, raw</i>
-OW	oh	<i>grow, row, flow, bow</i>	-OWE	ow	<i>growe, rowe, flowe, bowe</i>
OW	ow	<i>power, town, cow</i>	OU	oo	<i>pouer, toun, cou</i>
U	u	<i>nut, summer, sun</i>	I	i	<i>nit, simmer, sin</i>
U	u	<i>duck(v), jug, thumb</i>	OU	oo	<i>douk, joug, thoum</i>
U	yoo	<i>use (v), use (n), music</i>	UI	ai/i/ee/ö	<i>uise, uiss, muisic</i>
URE	yoor	<i>mixture, picture, nature</i>	UR	ër	<i>mixtur, pictur, naitur</i>
-FY	fye	<i>modify, crucify, satisfy</i>	-FEE	fee	<i>modifee, crucifee, saitisfee</i>

D18.3. Unnecessar Spellin Chynges.

The follaein is unnecessar spellin chynges whaur, for non-regional screivin, the words is better left wi the English spellin.

English	Pron	E.g.	Scots	Typ. Pron	E.g.
A	o	<i>want, wash, water</i>	AA	a	<i>waant, waash, waater</i>
E	e	<i>leg, term, exercise</i>	AI	e, ai	<i>laig, tairm, aixercise</i>
E	ë	<i>enter, suffer, winter</i>	I	ë	<i>entir, suffir, wuntir</i>
I	i	<i>will, hill, win</i>	U	i, u	<i>wull, hull, wun</i>
O	o	<i>on, stop, job</i>	OA	oa	<i>oan, stoap, joab</i>
O	u	<i>word, work, worth</i>	U	u, i	<i>wurd, wurk, wurth</i>

Spellins no in SSD - shawin whaur SSD practice nicht be redd up or differt frae.
ë - here staunds for the soond o the *e* in English *the*.

Minority comments frae Comatee members anent aspects o spellin

George Philp wrocht for the Comatee aa the wey ti April 1998, an his sherp ee saved us a wheen quaistenable expressions in the developin Report. Houever, he weished ti staun on three pynts o principle he haes aye threipit on, in a lang commitment as a publisher an Scots activist:

- (i) *Uisin -OU aawey*
- (ii) *Uisin diacritics ti merk -ei- in English cognates*
- (iii) *Haudin the uise o final -ie ti diminutives an stressd syllables*

At his request on staunin doun frae the Comatee ti pursue ither o his monie ploys ti forder Scots, we include here his introduction ti William Graham's Scorn, My Inheritance (Scotsoun 1998), at gies his considered views on the pynts at eissue.

INTRODUCTION

The hearing and the speaking of the Scots tongue will be familiar to older folk and to those fortunate enough to be growing up in a family circle in which Scots is still used, heard and respected.

The writing and reading of Scots, however, is much less familiar. When, until recently perhaps, were we ever asked how to spell a Scots word — far less use it — at any stage in formal education in Scotland?

And so it seems to me that any spelling system used should be consistent, uncontrived and 'eye friendly'. If the script is off-putting then comprehension and interest will be quickly lost and what should be a stimulating, if challenging, experience will become a daunting hurdle!

Bill Graham spent many long hours compiling material for what was to become *The Scots Word Book* and because Allan Ramsay and I have had long experience in the recording of Scots speech and writing (and song), we feel that our first duty in the compilation of this edition of Mr Graham's novel should be guided by his own spelling priorities.

It is my wish and hope to do justice to this work by reflecting on his considered opinions and experience as an author, poet and puzzler.

Reference can be made to the seven teaching articles *Teach Yourself Lallans* (TYL) and *Teach Yourself Scots* (TYS) which he prepared for *Lallans* (the magazine published by the Scots Language Society) and also his pioneering *Scots Word Book* (first published by the Ramsay Head Press in 1977). Where I have deviated from these guiders it is only to take options which, I believe, will help *the learner*, and anyone who has never read or seen Scots, to appreciate the sound qualities of the language.

I am aware that at this time increasing interest and concern for the solution of the problem of Scots orthography is foremost in many circles. A spelling system must meet the challenge of reproducing the sound of the language by means of a script which will in turn enable a reader to reproduce, if he wishes, the true speech patterns of a Scot speaking Scots.

One feature of the text printed here is the use of the spelling 'ou' for 'oo' in English — always. Consider the word Proudfoot; this is the Standard English spelling for the chief character Tommy Proudfoot's surname and as such is used where Tommy is being addressed by the headmaster of Sunnybank Primary School, Mr Fairservice (Auld Nappy), by his Sunday School Teacher, Miss Beveridge, by his music teacher, Uncle Wullie Proudfoot and by Jean Hammer an upwardly mobile classmate.

Proodfit is the simple equivalent phonetic Scots option but I have chosen to use the spelling Proudfruit for two very good reasons. This one word encapsulates the *raison d'être* of one feature of the spelling system adopted throughout this book.

First, it tackles head-on the vexed question of the ou/oo controversy. It is a fact that 'ou' in Scots is pronounced 'oo' and the one word which is the cornerstone of my argument is the guid Scots word *dour* which means hard or stern or obstinate (like me). To spell this word as door, substituting 'oo' for 'ou', results in an English word which is in common use as something to keep out intruders and the cold! This word *dour* is from the French *dur* and gives the Scots language a European context.

And so, if *ou* is taken as standard, other words like *stour*, *clour* and *flouer* comprise a family of words which helps the learner to recognise this Scots linguistic hallmark.

When it comes to words which are spelt the same way in Scots and English then this same option should apply and so in this text *our*, *out*, *about* and *house* (TYL Lallans No 4, p23 — '*ben the house*') are preferred to the common (English) phonetic options *oor*, *oot*, *aboot* and *hoose*.

I submit that because a word is spelt the same way in two languages is no reason to assume that it is pronounced similarly. Consider *content* and *miserable* — these words are found in both English and French; try telling a Frenchman or woman that they are pronounced as in English (or *vice-versa*) and you will get a quick *riposte*!

And so *proud* is pronounced *prood* but not spelt *prood*. Many words of this ilk are found throughout *Scorn, My Inheritance* such as *sour* not *soor*; *mouth* not *mooth*; *toun* not *toon*; *house* not *hoose* (TYL 2); *doun* not *doon* and *account* not *accoont*.

It is interesting to note that there are only **three** words to which this does not apply in the entire text of 67,794 words — (1) *shout* which is an English word whose Scots equivalent would be *yowl* or *scaich* (2) *bout* — a boxing match and (3) *blouse* (which is also French!). These words are to be read (and spoken) as in Standard English.

Bill Graham participated in the preparation of the Scotscribe version of *Tam o Shanter* by Robert Burns (Scotsoun Publication No 3). In the compilation of this modern text, which was published in 1985, ‘our’ and ‘out’ were preferred to ‘oor’ and ‘oot’. This option has been followed here; the same applies to about for aboot. The ‘ou’ was printed in italics, but we now think this is not necessary. The author of *Scorn, My Inheritance* adopts this spelling which is found throughout his work in prose and poetry. See TYL *Lallans* No 5, p27.

As for the second part of Tommy’s surname (foot), the simple (English) phonetic option (fit) is flawed because it is found in other parts of the text with its usual meaning in Standard English as in (1) . . . a blue fit. (2) “Sticking in at your lessons just doesn’t fit in with your notion of . . .” (3) “The fack is, Ben Proudfruit, ye’re no fit to bring the laddie up proper . . .” Another Scots surname not unlike Proudfruit would be *Cruickshank* (not *Crookshank*).

The Scots word for foot is *fuir* (fit) and I have used this purposefully as, again, there is a large number of words making up another family with the ‘ui’ spelling such as *boot/buit*, *wood/wuid*, *proof/pruif*, *coof/cuif*, *loof/luif* and *roof/ruif* etc. These words are pronounced *bit*, *wid*, *priff*, *kiff*, *liff* and *riff* and *fuir* as *fit*. Here I would refer you to a book of poems by Ellie MacDonald entitled *The Gangan Fuir*. In all these words the ‘oo’ in English gives way to ‘ui’ in Scots.

As Scots is not English the hallmarks of this leid should be respected and not Anglicised to suit other tastes.

Proodfit does appear once in the text — on the lavvy wall, but of course Jimmy Packer couldn’t spell anyway!

A novel feature I have adopted is the use of an acute accent over the letter ‘i’ in certain *specific* circumstances to indicate that the pronunciation ‘ee’ (as in Scots *wee*) is appropriate. In TYL *Lallans* No 5, p27 this feature is represented by the letter ‘i’ in bold type. Bill Graham notes that such words as *ambition*, *king*, *opinion*, *tradition* and *visit* are spelt as in English, but the pronunciation is peculiarly Scottish.

I think that the use of the acute accent is preferable to bold type. This option was taken by Robin Lorimer when editing his father’s *The New Testament* in Scots. Thus, *addition* is preferred to *addeition*; *ridiculous* to *rideiculous*; *consider* to *conseider*; *finish* to *feinish*; *suspicious* to *suspeicious*; *minister* to *meinister* and *city* to *ceitie*. Again this should help *the learner* to read and ‘pronounce’ the word.

The author has stressed the Scots pronunciation in *cheap*, *meat*, *real*, *beat* and *seat* as *chape*, *mate*, *rale*, *bate* and *sait*. In an endeavour to simplify the options I have consulted the SND in which *rael* and *baet* are the preferred Scots spellings for *real* and *beat*. In the text the words appear as *chaep*, *maet*, *rael*, *baet* and *saet*. Other words such as *ae*, *sae*, *dae* and *haet* belong to the same ‘family’.

When editing the text of *Scorn, My Inheritance* with the desire to emphasise the options available in Scots spelling, I have used the ‘uin’ rather than the ‘une’ form for words like *efternuin/efternune* (TYL *Lallans* No 3, p18); *abuin/abune*; *shuin/shune* and *suin/sune* etc. because I feel that the ‘une’ spelling is more likely to be read as *afternoon* — which is very similar to English, whereas *efternuin* (*efternin*) is more Scottish to my ear. (I am aware that the Doric equivalents would be *efterneen*, *abeen*, *sheen* and *seen*).

Another example is the substitution of the synonym *scaich* for *screich*, meaning screech. One unfamiliar with Scots would probably read *screich* as *screech* — which is the same as the word in English. It is interesting to note that the often-used word and similar-looking *dreich* would not be read as *dreech*!

In the text the author has used *fou* as the prefix in *fou-dowpit* but *fu* as the suffix in *lungfu*. I have standardised this feature by using *fou* as both prefix and suffix, thus *fou-breistit* and *fou-dowpit*; *lungfou* and *feckfou*.

Again to help *the learner*, I have used the form *forbye* (and *inbye*) rather than *forby* (and *inby*) lest they be pronounced as in the town of Corby in Northamptonshire.

Inasmuch as *yir* is, to my ear, the least stressed of the three Scots options for your in English, i.e. *yur*, *yer* and *yir* this choice is maintained throughout the text.

Where the present participle ending in 'in' derives from a verb ending in ae, such as *dae* (do); *hae* (have), I have inserted a hyphen to make three vowels one after the other, less daunting to a learner — thus, *dae-in/doing* and *hae-in/having*). In the case of consonants, this is not necessary as the Scots language thrives on such!

The past tense and participle in Scots ends in *-t* or *-it*. Thus *founert* (foundered); *roukit* (robbed).

G.P.

FREQUENT WORD SHORTLEET; SCOTS => ENGLISH

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Report an Recommends

(a)cause	because	come	come	help -it	help
a	a	come	come (pp)	her	her
aa	all	cry -ed (cried)	call	here	here
aamaist	almost	cuid	could	hers	hers
ablo	below	cut -tit	cut	hie	high
aboot	about	dae	do	him	him
abuin	above	dis	does	hindmaist	last
add -it	add	daff -t	play	hint	back
ae	only (one)	daunder -t	wander	his	his
aet	eat	day	day	hit	it
aeten / etten	eaten	did	did	hits	its
aff	off	different	different	hiv	have
afore	before	div	do	hoose	house
afte	often	docht	was able	I, A	I
again	again	doun	down	idea	idea
ahint	after	dow	be able	ile	oil
ain	own	duin	done	ilka	each, every
aince	once	ee	eye	important	important
air	air	e'en	even	in	in
airt	place	efter	after	inti	into
alang	along	eik -it	add	intil	into
am	am	Emphatic		is	is
an	an	en(d)	end	ither	other
an	and	eneuch	enough	iver	ever
an aa	also	ett	ate	iverie	every
ane	one	ettle, ettell	try	jee -d	move
anent	concerning	example	example	juist	just
anither	another	face	face	keep -it	keep
answer	answer	faimlie	family	ken -t	know
answer -t	answer	faither	father	kep -pit	catch
ar	are	fan(nd)	found (pt)	kin(d)	kind
aroon(d)	around	faur	far	kintra	country
as	as	feet	feet	kythe -d	seem
ask -ed, aks -t	ask	few	few	laddie	boy
at	at	fin(nd)	find	lairn -t	learn
athoot	without	first	first	landwart	(rural)
atween	between	flit -tit	move	lang	long
auld	old	follae -d	follow	lassie	girl
awa	away	for	for	last	last
awn -ed	own	forbye	also	lat	let
aye	always, still	form	form	late	late
back	back	fower	four	latten	let (pp)
bade	lived	fowk	people	lan(d)-	land
baest	animal	frae, frae	from	lea(ve)	leave
bairn	child	fuid	food	leet	list
baith	both	fun(nd)	found (pp)	left	left
be	be	gaed	went	left	left (pt, pp)
been	been	gaen	gone	leive -d	live
begin	begin	gang, gae	go	lest -it	last
begoud	began	gar -t	cause	leuk -it	look
begun	begun	gat	got (pt)	licht	light
ben	mountain	gate	way	life	life
ben	inside, etc.	gaun, gaein	going	like, lik	like
beuk	book	gey an	very	line	line
bidden	lived	gie -d	give	little	little
bide	live, reside	gif, if	if	loun	boy
big	big	gin	if	luit	let (pt)
birl -t	turn	gin	until	ma / my	before, when, that
bit	place	git	get	ma or my	my
bodie	body	gotten	get (pp)	made	made
boy	boy	group	group	maet	food
but	but	growe -d	grow	mair	more
by, bi	by	guid	good	maist	most
caa -d	call	hae	have	mak	make
cairie, cairiet	carry	haed	had	man	man
cam	came	haen	had	maucht	might
can	can, may	haes	has	maun	must
caur	car	hail	whole	me	me
ceity	city	hame	home	men	men
cheil	fellow	hantle	number	mibbie	maybe
childer	children	hard	hard	micht	may, might
chyng -d	change	haun(d),	hand	mile	mile
close	close	he	he	mine(s)	mine
clype, clypit	tell	heich	high	mither	mother
colour	colour	heid	head	monie	many

Scots Spellin Comatee 1996-1998
Report an Recommends

muckle	big, large	say	say	till	until
muckle	much	sayed	said	time	time
muisc	music	schuil	school	traivel -t	walk
muve -d	move	screive	letter	tree	tree
-na	(n't)	screive -d	write	try -ed (or: tried)	try
na	no	sea	sea	turn -t	turn
nae	no	see	see	twa	two
name	name	seen	seen	twa-three	few
naur	near	sentence	sentence	tyne, pt/pp tint	lose, miss
nearhaun	close	set	set (p, pt, pp)	uise -d	use
need -it	need			uiss	use
neist	next	shaw -ed	show	unner	under
new	new	she	she	up	up
nicht	night	shuid	should	us	us
niver	never	sic	such	verra	very
no	not	siccan	such	wad	would
nor	than	side	side	walk	walk
nou	now	smaa	small	walk -it	walk
nummer	number	sneck -it	latch	wan	one
o	of	sned -dit	sned, cut	wan	won
oor	our	some	some	want -it	want
oot	out	something	something	war	were
oot ower	over	soond	sound	wark	work
open -t	open	spaek	speak	warld	world
or	or	spoken	spoken	watch -t	watch
or	until, before	spak	spoke	watter	water
ower	over; too	speir -ed	ask	we	we
page	page	spell -t	spell	wean	child
pairt	part	stap -pit	stop, stuff	wee	little, small
paper	paper	start -it/stert-it	start	weel	well
pat	put (pt)	state	state	wey	way
pictur	picture	steek -it	shut	wheen	many
pit	put	steid	stead	while	while
pitten	put (pp)	stell -t	place	whiles	sometimes
plant	plant	stert, start	start	white	white
play -ed	play	stey -d (in / at)	live	wi	with
pree -'d	try, taste,	stop -pit	stop, halt	will	will
	sample	story	story	win	win, gain
prieve -d	try, taste,	study, studied	study	wis	was
	sample	tae	too	word	word
pruve -d	prove	taen	taken	work	work
puckle	few	tak	take	wrat(e)	wrote
pynt	point	talk -ed	talk	write	write
rael	real	tell -t	tell	written	written
ran	ran	teuk	took	wrocht	worked (pt, pp)
read	read	thaim	them		won
read	read	thair	their	wun	won
read	read (pt)	than	then	year	year
repone -d	reply	thay	they	yet	still
richt	right	the	the	yird	earth
rig	spine, ridge	thegither	together	yont	along
rin	run	thing	thing	you	you
river	river	think	think	you	you
run	run (pp)	thocht	thought	young	young
sae	so	thocht	thought (pt, pp)	your	your
saicont	second			your	your
sall	shall	thonder	there	yours	yours
same	same	three	three	yours	yours
sang	song	throu	through		
saw	saw	til, ti	to		

FREQUENT WORD SHORTLEET, ENGLISH => SCOTS

(n't)	-na	close	nearhaun	here	here
(rural)	landwart	colour	colour	hers	hers
a	a	come	come	high	heich
about	about	come (pp)	come	high	hie
above	abuin	concerning	anent	him	him
add	add -it	could	cuid	his	his
add	eik -it	country	kintra	home	hame
after	ahint	cut	cut -tit	house	hoose
after	efter	day	day	I	I, A
again	again	did	did	idea	idea
air	air	different	different	if	gif, if
all	aa	do	dae	if	gin
almost	aamaist	do	div	important	important
along	alang	does	dis	in	in
along	yont	done	duin	inside, etc.	ben
also	an aa	down	doun	into	inti
also	forbye	each, every	ilka	into	intil
always, still	aye	earth	yird	is	is
am	am	eat	aet	it	hit
an	an	eaten	aeten /	its	hits
and	an		etten	just	just
animal	baest	end	en(d)	keep	keep -it
another	anither	English	Normal	kind	kin(d)
answer	answer	enough	eneuch	know	ken -t
answer	answer -t	even	e'en	land	lan(d)-
are	ar	ever	iver	last	hindmaist
around	aroon(d)	every	iverie	last	last
as	as	example	example	last	lest -it
ask	ask -ed,	eye	ee	latch	sneck -it
	aks -t	face	face	late	late
ask	speir -ed	family	faimlie	learn	lairn -t
at	at	far	faur	leave	lea(ve)
ate	ett	father	faither	left	left
away	awa	feet	feet	left (pt, pp)	left
back	back	fellow	cheil	let	lat
back	hint	few	few	let (pp)	latten
be	be	few	puckle	let (pt)	luit
be able	dow	few	two-three	letter	screive
because	(a)cause	find	fin(nd)	life	life
been	been	first	first	light	licht
before	afore	follow	follae -d	like	like, lik
began	begoud	food	fuid	line	line
begin	begin	food	maet	list	leet
begun	begun	for	for	little	little
below	ablo	form	form	little, small	wee
between	atween	found (pp)	fun(nd)	live	leive -d
big	big	found (pt)	fan(nd)	live	stey -d
big, large	muckle	four	fower		(in / at)
body	bodie	from	frae, frae	live, reside	bide
book	beuk	get	git	lived	bade
both	baith	get (pp)	gotten	lived	bidden
boy	boy	girl	lassie	long	lang
boy	laddie	give	gie -d	look	leuk -it
boy	loun	go	gang, gae	lose, miss	tyne,
but	but	going	gaun, gaein		pt/pp tint
by	by, bi	gone	gaen	made (pt, pp)	made
call	caa -d	good	guid	make	mak
call	cry, cried	got (pt)	gat	man	man
came	cam	group	group	many	when
can, may	can	grow	growe -d	many	monie
car	caur	had	haed	may, might	nicht
carry	cairie,	had	haen	maybe	mibbie
	cairiet	hand	haun(d)	me	me
catch	kep -pit	hard	hard	men	men
cause	gar -t	has	haes	might	maucht
change	chyngae -d	have	hae	mile	mile
child	bairn	have	hiv	mine	mine(s)
child	wean	he	he	more	mair
children	childer	head	heid	most	maist
city	ceity	help	help -it	mother	mither
close	close	her	her	mountain	ben

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Report an Recommends

move	flit -tit	run (pp)	run	together	thegither
move	jee -d	said	sayed	too	tae
move	muve -d	same	same	took	teuk
much	muckle	saw	saw	tree	tree
music	muisc	say	say	try	ettle, ettelt
must	maun	school	schuil	try	try -ed (or:
my	ma / my	sea	sea	tried)	
my	ma or my	second	saicont	try, taste, sample	pree -'d
name	name	see	see	try, taste, sample	prieve -d
near	naur	seem	kythe -d	turn	birl -t
need	need -it	seen	seen	turn	turn -t
never	niver	sentence	sentence	two	two
new	new	set (p, pt, pp)	set	under	unner
next	neist	shall	sall	until	till
night	nicht	she	she	until, before	or
no	na	should	shuid	until, before,when,	
no	nae	show	shaw -ed	by the time that	gin
n't	-na	shut	steek -it	up	up
not	no	side	side	us	us
now	nou	small	smaa	use	uise -d
number	hantle	sned, cut	sned -dit	use	uiss
number	nummer	so	sae	very	gey an
of	o	some	some	very	verra
off	aff	something	something	walk	traivel -t
often	aften	sometimes	whiles	walk	walk
oil	ile	song	sang	walk	walk -it
old	auld	sound	soond	wander	daunder -t
once	aince	speak	spaek	want	want -it
one	ane	spell	spell -t	was	wis
one	wan	spine, ridge	rig	was able	docht
only (one)	ae	spoke	spak	watch	watch -t
open	open -t	spoken	spoken	water	spoke water
or	or	start	start -t/	way	gate
other	ither		stert-it	way	wey
our	oor	start	stert, start	we	we
out	oot	state	state	well	weel
over	oot ower	stead	steid	went	gaed
over; too	ower	still	yet	were	war
own	ain	stop, halt	stop -pit	while	while
own	awn -ed	stop, stuff	stap -pit	white	white
page	page	story	story	whole	hail
paper	paper	study	study,	will	will
part	pairt		studied	win, gain, etc.	win
people	fowk	such	sic	with	wi
picture	pictur	such	siccan	without	athoot
place	airt	take	tak	won	wan
place	bit	taken	taen	won	wun
place	stell -t	talk	talk -ed	word	word
plant	plant	tell	clype, clypit	work	wark
play	daff -t	tell	tell -t	work	work
play	play -ed	than	nor	worked (pt, pp)	wrocht
point	pynt	the	the	world	warld
prove	pruve -d	their	thair	would	wad
put	pit	them	thaim	write	screive -d
put (pp)	pitten	then	than	write	write
put (pt)	pat	there	thonder	written	written
ran	ran	they	thay	wrote	wrat(e)
read	read	thing	thing	year	year
read	read	think	think	you	you
read (pt)	read	thought	thocht	you	you
real	rael	thought (pt, pp)	thocht	young	young
reply	repone -d	three	three	your	your
right	richt	through	throu	your	your
river	river	time	time	yours	yours
run	rin	to	til, ti	yours	yours