

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911026149803321
Autore	Burling Robbins
Titolo	Spellbound : Untangling English Spelling
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	9781781793350 1781793352
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (186 pages)
Disciplina	421/.52
Soggetti	Spellers English language - Orthography and spelling
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Part I -- 1 What Needs Fixing? -- 2 What Happened to English Spelling? -- 3 Reading, Spelling, and Illiteracy -- 4 Reforms for Other Languages -- 5 Failed Reforms for English -- 6 Is Reform Possible? -- Part II -- Introduction -- 7 The Criteria for a Better Spelling for English -- 8 Consonants -- 9 Stressed Vowels -- 10 The Unstressed Schwa -- 11 How Might It Look? -- 12 English Spelling: Optimal or Absurd? -- Appendix: The Table of Vowels -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Spellbound considers the history of English spelling and provides suggestions for modern day reform of its irregularities. The first half of the book reviews the history of English spelling and the reasons for the many irregularities of our modern language. The author argues that the irregular spelling of English contributes seriously to the high rate of illiteracy in the English speaking world. He then reviews some of the many attempts to reform the spelling of other languages, some of which were successful and others not. During the first half of the 20th century there was a flurry of interest in reforms for English but since then reform has been little more than the object of humor. Spellbound considers the reasons for this opposition to reform. The book then turns to current proposals for the reform of English. It describes the criteria that should govern the choice among alternative reforms and

considers in detail the relatively easily reformed consonants and the much more difficult vowels. Special attention is given to ways of designing a spelling that is equally suitable for the many and diverse dialects of spoken English. While the author recognises that a unified spelling could not be perfect for any single dialect, he argues that it could be very much better than our present spelling for all dialects. Spellbound concludes by looking at possible ways by which reforms might be brought about today.

---