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PART 4
Transport
& Fashion

Ruffs, and cuffs, and farthingales, and things

FASHION GENERATES and discards more vocabulary than almost any other area of life. There's no better way to illustrate both changing fashion and the changing language of fashion than to go back to the time of Shakespeare.

The Elizabethan period was more foppish, effervescent and exaggerated in fashion than any other in history. Pictures show us extraordinarily foppish attitudes in fashions, male and female alike, against which William Harrison railed in his *Description of England* in 1587—in the curmudgeonly way of elderly men of every generation who think the country's going to the dogs, but in this case with some justification—complaining of the “costliness”, “the excess and the vanity”

and “the fickness and the folly” of the costume of his time.

For women, the main fashion items of the period were the “ruffs, and cuffs, and farthingales” which Petrusonus teasingly promises Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew* she might be allowed to wear. The least remarkable of these, you may feel, are the **cuffs**, hardly worth his mentioning them. But the cuffs of upper-class women's clothes were then often highly ornate items that could be bought and worn separately.

The **farthingale** had been introduced from Spain around 1545. The name has nothing to do with the obsolete coin; it's actually from a Spanish word *varaga*, meaning a rod or stick, via *varagales* for the garment, a term which the English transformed into something more memorable and sensible-sounding. The sticks were actually hoops of wider or whicker, sometimes wire, made progressively larger towards the bottom, sewn into a canvas support to create a conical or bell shape as a support for the skirts on top. From the 1570s, a padded roll of cloth under the skirt was added that threw it out at the sides and back; this had the unprepossessing name of **bum roll** (bum was indeed known then—in fact, from at least two centuries earlier, though where it came from isn't known—but it wasn't as mildly rude as it became later; it turns up in a bit of comedy by

Gallimaufry: A Hodgepodge of our Vanishing Vocabulary
196 x 129 mm

Spelling Rules

There are some words, such as necessary and Caribbean, where you just have to learn the spelling. These kinds of words make up the main part of this book. But there are plenty of other words which follow special rules. Here are some of the main guidelines that you should find helpful in spelling everyday words.

Plurals of Nouns

- Make the plural of most nouns by simply adding **s** to the end: book, books; journey, journeys.
- If the noun ends with a consonant plus **y**, make the plural by changing the **y** to **ies**: berry, berries.
- If the noun ends with **-ch, -s, -sh, -x, or -z**, add **-es** to make the plural: church, churches; bus, buses; box, boxes.
- If the **-ch** ending is pronounced **-tʃ**, then just make the plural by adding **-s**: stomach, stomachs.
- For nouns which end in a consonant or a single vowel plus **-f** or **-fe**, make the plural by changing the **-f** or **-fe** to **-ves**: half, halves; knife, knives.
- Nouns which end in two vowels plus **-f** usually form plurals in the normal way, with an **-s**: chief, chiefs.
- Nouns ending in **-o** can add either **-s** or **-es** in the plural; there is more information about which ending to use in the centre section of the book.
- The plurals of words which have come into English from a foreign language such as Latin or Greek often have two possible spellings: the foreign plural spelling and an English one. For example, the plural of aquarium (from Latin) can be spelled *aquaria* (as in Latin) or *aquariums*. If you want to check which is correct, look in the main part of the book.
- Nouns which end in **-is** usually come from Latin; the plurals of these are made by changing the **-is** to **-es**: crisis, crises; neurosis, neuroses.

Spelling Rules

Adding other endings (suffixes)

-ed and -ing

The basic, unchanged part of a verb is called the infinitive; it normally occurs with the word “to”, as in “to visit”. To make the form of the verb referring to things that happened in the past (the past tense), the ending **-ed** is added to the infinitive (visited), and to make the form of the verb referring to things that are still happening (the present participle), the ending **-ing** is added (visiting). Although there is usually no need to make any other changes to the infinitive, there are some cases where spelling changes do occur:

- If the verb ends with a silent (unspoken) **e** (as in *bole*), then drop this before **-ed** and **-ing**: *boled*, *boiling*. There are some exceptions to this rule:
 - verbs ending in **-ee, -ye, and -oe**, such as *free, dye, and foe*, do not drop the final silent **e** when adding **-ing**: *freeing*, *dyeing*, *foeing*.
 - there are a few verbs (such as *sing*) that keep the final silent **e** when adding **-ing** (*singing*) to distinguish them from similar words without the **-e** (such as *sing*).
- If the verb ends with a vowel plus **-d** (as in *travel*), then double this before **-ed** and **-ing**: *traveled*, *travelling*. Note that this rule does not apply in American spelling; there is more information about American spelling at the back of the book.
- If the verb ends with a single vowel plus a consonant, and the stress is at the end of the word (as in *refer*), then double the final consonant before **-ed** and **-ing**: *referred*, *referring*.
- If the verb ends with a single vowel plus a consonant and the stress is not at the end of the word (as in *target*), do not double the final consonant: *targeted*, *targeting*.
- If the verb has only one syllable and ends with a single vowel plus a consonant (as in *stop*), then the final consonant should be doubled before **-ed** and **-ing**: *stopped*, *stopping*.
- If the verb ends with two vowels plus a consonant (as in *treat*), do not double the final consonant: *treated*, *treating*.
- If the verb ends in **-e** (as in *picnic*), then add **k** before **-ed**, **-ing**, and **-er**: *picnicked*, *picnicking*, *picnicker*.

Oxford A-Z of Spelling
174 x 111 mm

Endings and beginnings

There are only a few words beginning with **ante-** meaning ‘before’ in general use (note that they are not hyphenated):

antebellum	antebate	anteatual
antecedent	antediluvian	antepenultimate
antichamber	antemortem	antemorse

- When the meaning is ‘against’ or ‘preventing’, use **anti-** (it comes from Greek and in the same sense). It is used to form words such as *antifreeze* (a substance that prevents water from freezing) or *antiracism* (the policy of opposing racism).
- Anti-** words are sometimes hyphenated, especially when the words following **anti-** begin with a vowel (e.g. *anti-aircraft*, *anti-inflammatory*).
- There are far more words beginning with **anti-** than those that begin with **ante-**; some of the most common are:

anti-abortion	anticknock	anti-hero	antioxidant
anti-aircraft	anticyclone	antihistamine	antipathy
antibacterial	antidepressant	anti-inflammatory	antipersonnel
antibiotic	antidote	antimicrobial	antisemitism
antibody	antifreeze	antimatter	antiseptic
antimax	antigen	anti-nuclear	antisocial

-ary, -ery, or -ory?

Knowing which of these endings to choose can be tricky. Here are a few general tips:

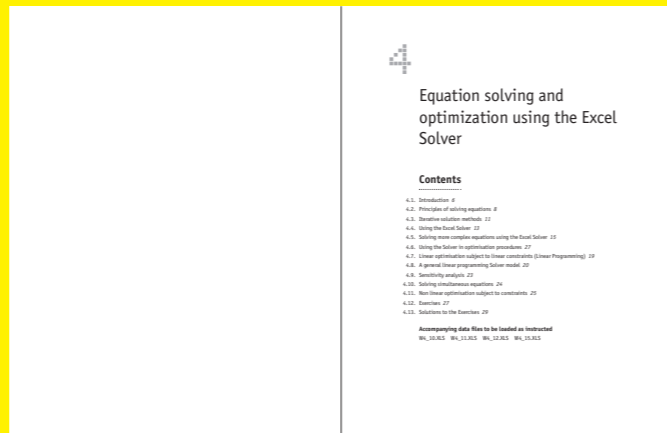
- Words ending in **-ary** can be nouns (boundary), adjectives (ordinary), or both (contemporary).
- They are sometimes related to nouns ending in **-or**: for example, *burglary* (burglar).
- If the part of the word before the ending is not a recognizable English word in itself, then it is often (but not always) the case that the ending will be **-ary** (e.g. *vocabulary*, *library*).
- Here are some of the most common words ending in **-ary**:

accessory	depository	inflammatory	preparatory
advisory	desolatory	introductory	priority
allegory	disparaging	inventory	promontory
category	desultory	laboratory	rectory
conciliatory	dictatory	loquacious	satisfactory
conservatory	dramatic	manipulatory	secondary
contradictory	exploratory	memory	signatory
contributory	factory	obligatory	territory
copy	history	obviatory	theory
defamatory	illustory	predatory	victory

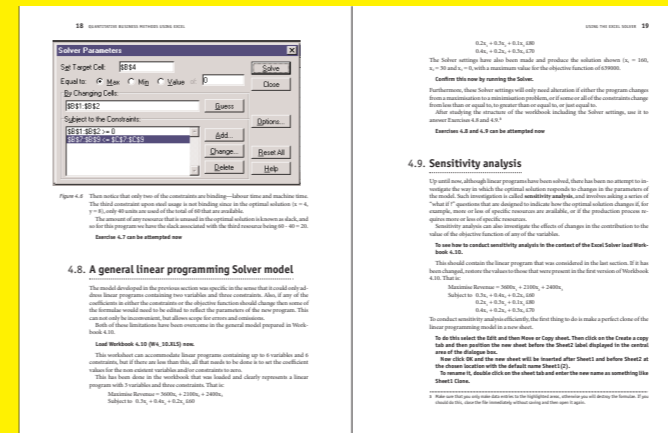
- Words ending in **-ery** are nearly always nouns (buttery), and they are often related to nouns ending in **-er**: for example, *brewery* (brewer).
- The only exceptions to the above are the adjective *slippery* and other adjectives that are based on words that end in **-er** (e.g. *blatney*).

Over the last 20 years I have worked on more than 200 projects for Oxford University Press.

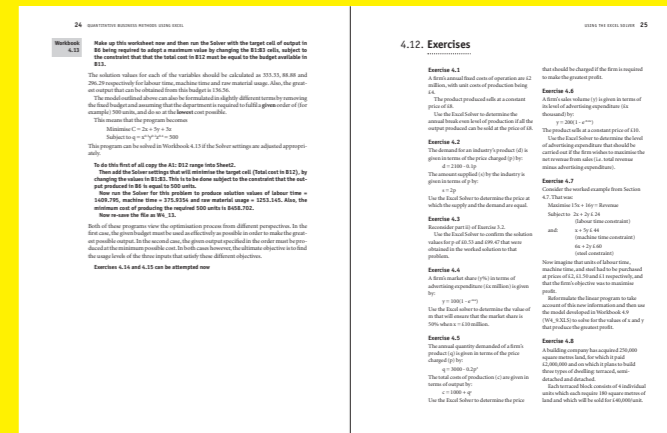
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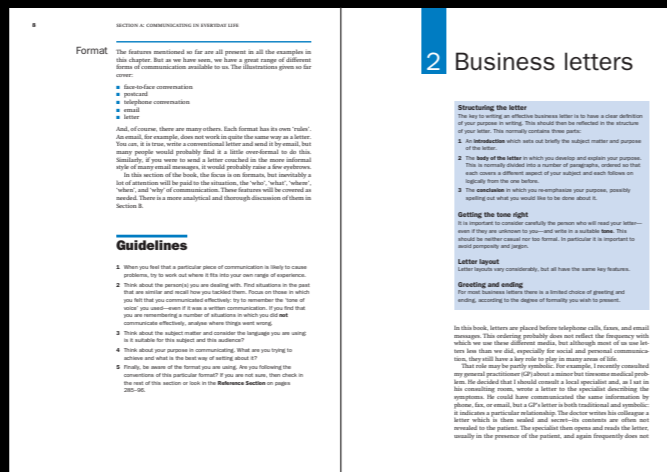
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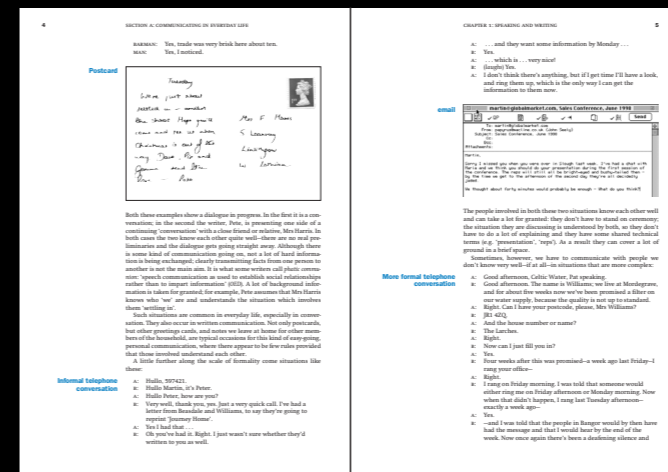
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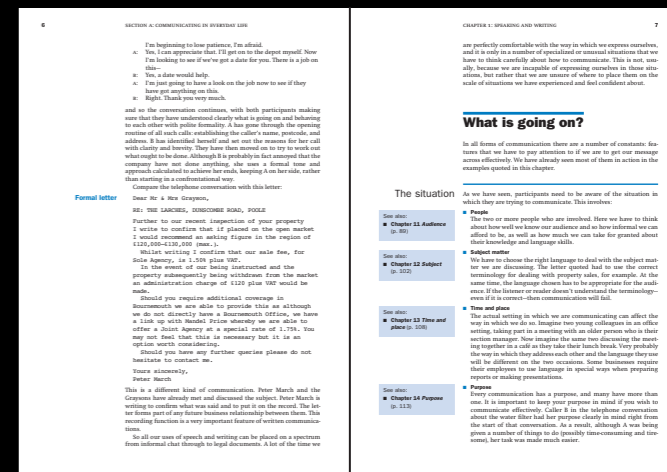
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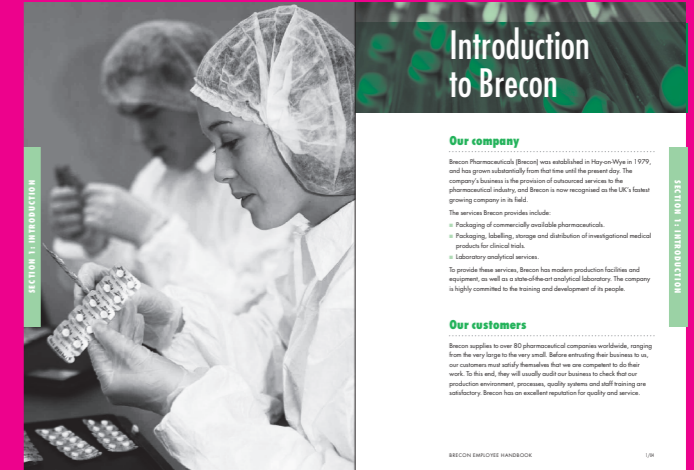
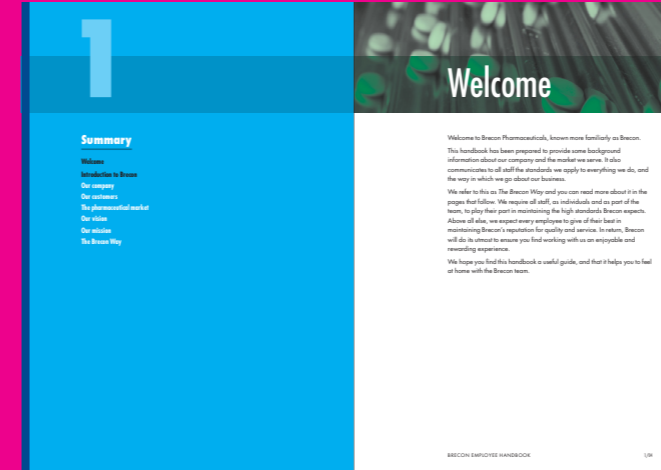


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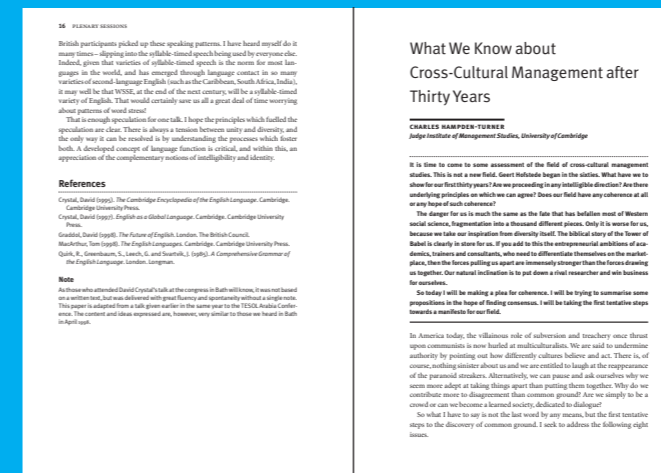


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