

February, 2005

From: Joe Little [spellingprogress@AmericanLiteracy.com](mailto:spellingprogress@AmericanLiteracy.com)

Dear Literacy Friend,

The simplified spellings shown below appeared this month in various ads, headlines, newspaper columns, internet blogs, transcripts. or book titles. If book authors, editors and publishers gradually begin to use these simplified spellings, then we may occasionally risk using them ourselves in emails, letters, and grocery lists.

But be warned, a skittish citizenry often has one eye on dictionaries and spell-checker buttons. They're ready to pounce with judgment on any hint of a misspelled word.

One way to reduce this wariness is to publicize officially that simpler spellings are being used more and more. So, herein we shed light on simpler English spellings that are coming into general use in the US and overseas – common words that are used often. User-friendly and reader-friendly spellings are shown below that were used last month in various print and on-line media.

Just click a link below if you want to verify the larger sentence in which these words were used.

The words we discovered from last month's writings were

**altho, dialog, laff, tuff**

**altho**

NFL Draft and Post Season Invitees

<<http://northwestern.scout.com/2/337219.html>>

Wildcat Sports Journal - USA

..... considered a project. Noah Herron - [5-11 230] ...not sure why, **altho** some think he's not fast enough.

Take us where it's warm

<<http://news.forum.publicradio.org/article.pl?sid=05/01/13/080217>>

Minnesota Public Radio News - USA

..... even been 20 below yet, **altho** on some of those forecasted days it may reach it. It gets to thirty below here in the Cloud most years. ...

The Readers' Choice

<<http://www.democraticunderground.com/blogbox/05/005.html>>

Democratic Underground - Washington,DC,USA

..... that the Emperor wears no clothing and that his "suit" doesn't even hang very well on him (**altho** it's fun to do so). ...

## dialog

Alkhanov links Maskhadov's "truce" to anti-terror operations

[http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/0/28.html?menu=1&id\\_issue=10737653](http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/0/28.html?menu=1&id_issue=10737653)

Interfax - Moscow,Russia

..... "The Chechen administration is open to **dialog** with anyone who wants peace and is ready to help us stop terrorism, but neither Maskhadov ...

Mini Tutorial: Open up! (When documents won't open)

<http://www.macfixit.com/article.php?story=20050201072556473>

MacFixIt (subscription) - World

..... From the dialog that appears, navigate to the folder that contains the document, select the document and...use the Open **dialog's** sidebar...

Creating effective dialog between world economic and social forums

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20050202.E03>

Jakarta Post - Jakarta,Indonesia

..... its agenda. Only with a clearly defined program will a much needed **dialog** between Porto Alegre and Davos be possible. However, ...

## laff

Comic Relief

<<http://www.antiwar.com/blog/index.php?id=P1666>>

Antiwar.com - Redwood City,CA,USA

If you're not watching C-Span2 right now, please start. It's the International ANSWER counter-inaugural demonstration, and it's a **laff...**

Best Buy goes for niche buyers with Escape and Studio D boutique stores

<<http://www.engadget.com/entry/1234000230025793/>>

engadget - USA

..... bargain chains like Wal-Mart (that whole thing about classifying customers as "angels" and "devils" was good for a **laff**), but they ...

What's new for TV's mid-season

<<http://jam.canoe.ca/Television/2005/01/06/810296.html>>

Canoe.ca - Canada

..... one. The Tournament, the new CBC mockumentary about out of control minor hockey parents (Mondays at 8:30 pm) is a **laff**, I told him. ...

Santa opens Curmudgeon's lead, gives Jenkins a thesaurus

<[http://www.dcmilitary.com/navy/tester/10\\_01/sports/32710-1.html](http://www.dcmilitary.com/navy/tester/10_01/sports/32710-1.html)>

Patuxent River Tester - Patuxent River,MD,USA

..... some will say all-time top), and that the Packers keep finding ways to win. So, yeah, this one's a **laff** riot. Packers all the way.

PlayStation Portable smashy smashy

<<http://www.engadget.com/entry/1234000850027358/>>

engadget - USA

..... on the anniversary of PlayStation Portable's launch some jokesters with way too much disposable income decided it'd be a **laff** to...

## tuff

Gentle Breezes clinch Classic

<<http://www.lompocrecord.com/articles/2005/01/26/sports/sports16.txt>>

Lompoc Record - Lompoc,CA,USA

..... Ken Bailey and Gary Rodriguez matched antlers on lanes 9-10 with Ken edging Gary 245/658 to 235/627. **Tuff** competition to say the least!

Just Imagine

<<http://www.indolink.com/Stories/Publish/s251.html>>

IndoLink - San Ramon,CA,USA

..... dead. But it was **tuff** doing that. We almost smashed earth. These in- between are tuff to judge. Actually anyone can be tuff to judge. ...

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That's it for the February 2005 discoveries. Go ahead and use some simplified spellings. Every such use helps to nudge the written form of English into a more rational style. It's the surest way to improve literacy in English-speaking countries.

Reader feedback is of value to editors, authors and bloggers-- people who are regularly up-dating the stylistic elements of their texts, including spelling. They examine audience feedback. Give yours if you like, but more practically, use simplified spellings wherever you can without damage to your identity.

Simply yours,

Joe Little

Managing Dir, American Literacy Council

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