

I take it you already know
Of *tough* and *bough* and *cough* and *dough*
Others may stumble, but not you
On *hiccough*, *thorough*, *lough* and *through*
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps.
Beware of *heard*, a dreadful word
That looks like *beard* and sounds like *bird*
And *dead*; it's said like bed, not *bread*-
For goodness sake, don't call it *deed*!
Watch out for *meat* and *great* and *threat*
(They rhyme with *suite* and *straight* and *debt*)
A *moth* is not a moth in *mother*
Nor *both* in *bother*, *broth* in *brother*,
And *here* is not a match for *there*,
Nor *dear* and *fear* for *bear* and *pear*.
And then *there's* *dose* and *rose* and *lose*-
Just look them up-and *goose* and *choose*,
And *cork* and *work* , and *card* and *ward*,
And *font* and *front* and *word* and *sword*,
And *do* and *go*, and *thwart* and *cart*-
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!