

The Salamanca Corpus: "Remarks on the Dialect of  
Halifax" (1789)

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William Bentley (1747-1811)

**"Remarks on the Dialect of Halifax"  
(1789)**

*Remarks on the Dialect of Halifax.*

RULES FOR PRONUNCIATION.

First.—After oo add an i, pronouncing brisk, which will give the usual sound in the following monosyllables:—For soon, sooin; noon, nooin; goose, gooise; fool, fooil; tool, tooil; cool, cooil; hood, hood; mood, mooid; moon, mooin; noon, nooin; rood, rooid; spoon, spoon; school, schooil; blood, blood; book, booik; and others.

Also plural nouns, as for boots, booits; roots, rooits, &c. except wood, and perhaps a very few more words of the like sort. (In some parts of the parish, especially

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westward, oo are pronounced as oi, as foit for foot, &c.) Words of two syllables come also under this rule, as cooisin for cousin.—Also shooin for shoes.

Second.—Some few words ending in ote, are pronounced as if they ended in oite, as noite for note. This seems to be confined to substantives; verbs of the preter tenses, such as worte, bote, &c. do not fall under it. To this rule also belongs words which contain the letters oat, as for coat, coit; for oats, oits; for broach, they also say broich. To these, indeed, there are several exceptions, such as boat, goat, &c. To this rule also belong such words as end in ole and oal, as for

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foal, foil; coal, coil; hole, hoil; soal, soil, &c. except dole, mole, pole, sole.

Third.—Such words as tea, flea, and yea, are sounded as if they were composed of two syllables; and the negative particle no, as nooa.

Fourth.—Lane is pronounced as loin, but few, if any more words of this sort are subject to the like change.

Fifth.—This latter syllable in the words bacon, button, glutton, mutton, and such like, are sounded open and full, contrary to the custom of most other places.

Sixth.—Words ending in ch, are pronounced as is they ended in k, as birk for birch; benk, bench; kirk, church; ick, itch; pick, pitch; thack, for thatch; perk, perch. Some for birch say burk, and for perch, peark. Exceptions to this rule are, catch, patch, hatch, match, watch, &c. They also say kist for chest. Words ending in sh are the same, as busk for bush.

Seventh.—The letter o is frequently changed into a, as belangs for belongs; lang, long; sang, song; tangs, tongs; warse, worse; emang, among.

Eighth.—Ought, nought, and words of the like sort, are pronounced by fetching the sound out of the throat, as if they were written ouht, nouht.

Ninth.—Ose is sounded like oise, thus cloise, close; loise lose.

Tenth.—I, in the word find, is pronounced as in the word hinder; and sometimes it is changed into u, as behund for behind.

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Eleventh.—U is used for e, as runt, rent; shu, she; yus, yes; and the consonant v is often changed into the vowel one, as neuer, never; euer, ever.

Twelfth.—U is omitted in such words as could, would, should; and the letters *old* pronounced as

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in the word *lolloed*. In the same manner is also the word uphold pronounced, and sometimes uphod.

Thirteenth.—X is often changed into is, as Halifais for Halifax; neist, next; seis, six; seist, sixth; wais, was; ais, ax.

Fourteenth.—Words are frequently contracted, as Ise for I am; Ist, I shall; also by the omission of a letter, as fok for folk.

Fifteenth.—T is changed into d, as pewder for pewter; also d into t, as clots for clods.

Sixteenth.—Letters are frequently transposed, as girn for grin, skrimish for skirmish.

