

## Spelling change

These examples of all the words not in modern spelling in the selected texts show the way spelling has slowly and steadily moved in the direction of the present day.

*1672: Dryden's 'Defence of the Epilogue', c. 5,000 words*

acknowledg'd, admir'd, aim'd, allow'd, arriv'd, Black-Friars, blam'd, Bug-bear, call'd, caus'd, censur'd, confest [confessed], confineing, constrain'd, constru'd, custome, daies [days], defin'd, deny'd, doe [do], drest, dy'd [died], equality, e're, errors, every where, excell, excell'd, extreamly, farr, fix'd, follow'd, Fopps, forc'd, fore mention'd, form'd, gayety, groveling, height'ning, Heroe, horrour, improv'd, inferr, ingag'd, Inscrib'd, intitled, introduc'd, it self [*also* itself], Judgment [*also* Judgement], justifie, kill'd, labor, Latine, laught [laughed], liv'd, loosen'd, maintain'd, Master-piece, meanness [*also* meanness], mention'd, mis-fortunes, Mistriss, mortifi'd, my self, oblig'd, observ'd, onely, our selves, perplex'd, plac'd, Playes [*also* Plays], pleas'd, plyant, polish'd, practic'd, preheminance, propos'd, prov'd, Raggs, receiv'd, refin'd, reform'd, requir'd, reserv'dness, retrench'd, reverenc'd, satisfy'd, sayes, scatter'd, seldome, Sence, Shakespear, shew, show'd, somuch, Tallent, tax'd, tir'd, Unaffraid, unpolish'd, us'd, vigor, waken'd, wonder'd [109/5,000 – approx. 1 in 45 words]

*1712: Swift's 'Proposal', c. 5,000 words*

alledging, allow'd, Antients [*also* Ancients], any Thing, attone, Candor, Chearfulness, Domestick, dropt, encountring, encreasing, Enthuiastick, Expence, Extream, Fanatick, favorite, forein [*also* Foreign], Honor, Humor, intrinsick, joyned, mouldring, now a-days, our selves, Panegyrick, Publick, refus'd, rendring, Sett, shew, Suedes, tho', Topick, wondred, Your Self [39/5,000, approx. 1 in 128 words]

*1747: Johnson's 'Plan of a Dictionary', c. 8,000 words*

antient, bewildred, camæleon, croud, design'd, encrease, enter'd, fix'd, hyæna, Italick, oftner, perswade, phænomena, physick, publickly, registred, shew, suffer'd, synonymous, tho' [20/8,000, approx. 1 in 400 words]

*1860: Punch's Almanack, c. 6,000 words*

almanack, ancles, bâton, now-a-days, recal [5/6,000, approx 1 in 1,200 words]